THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

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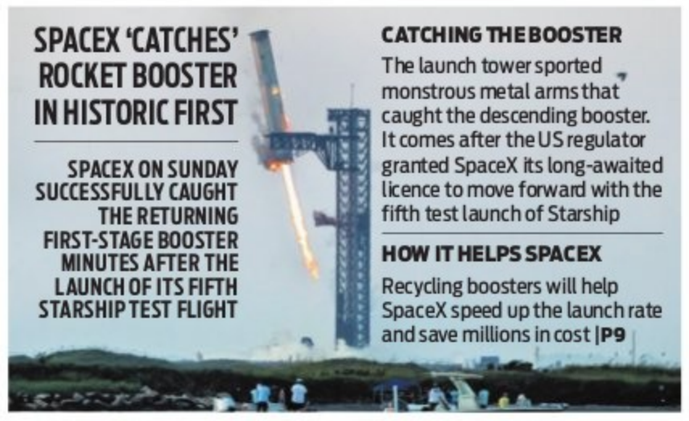

SPACEX 'CATCHES' ROCKET BOOSTER IN HISTORIC FIRST

SPACEX ON SUNDAY SUCCESSFULLY CAUGHT THE RETURNING FIRST-STAGE BOOSTER MINUTES AFTER THE LAUNCH OF ITS FIFTH STARSHIP TEST FLIGHT

CATCHING THE BOOSTER

The launch tower sported monstrous metal arms that caught the descending booster. It comes after the US regulator granted SpaceX its long-awaited licence to move forward with the fifth test launch of Starship

HOW IT HELPS SPACEX

Recycling boosters will help SpaceX speed up the launch rate and save millions in cost |P9

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Kharge's son asks KIADB to take back 5-acre land

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

AFTER criticised by opposition parties and others, AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge's son Rahul M Kharge, who is also chairman of the Siddhartha Vihar Trust, has written to the Karnataka Industrial Area Development Board (KIADB) to cancel the civic amenity (CA) site allotted to the trust.

The letter, dated September 20, 2024, was shared by IT-BT Minister Priyank Kharge's office on Sunday. The trust had proposed to set up multiple skill development and research centres on the plot. The five acre land was allotted for ten years on lease cum sale basis after Rahul Kharge earlier this year applied to purchase the land at the Defence and Aerospace Park at Devanahalli, which is close to the Kempegowda International Airport.

Interestingly, this letter has come to light after Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's wife Paravathy BM wrote to the MUDA chairman to cancel the 14 sites allotted to her at Vijayanagar in Mysuru in exchange for her 3 acre 16 guntas of land.

In the letter, Rahul Kharge stated the purpose of the land was to train youngsters and students and make them employable. The trust had preferred this area as it is close to many industries. P4

Bishnoi gang claims responsibility for Baba Siddique murder, two held

Two suspects on the run; FB post of purported gang member threatens actor Salman Khan

SUDHIR SURYAWANSHI @ Mumbai

HOURS after former Maharashtra minister and NCP (Ajit Pawar) leader Baba Siddique was shot dead in Mumbai late on Saturday night, the Lawrence Bishnoi gang claimed responsibility for the murder, citing his close relationship with Bollywood star Salman Khan.

The gang has threatened the actor for allegedly poaching blackbucks in Rajasthan during a film shoot in 1998. The Bishnoi community considers blackbucks holy. In April this year, some Bishnoi gang members were held in connection with the firing outside Salman Khan's residence in Mumbai.

Siddique, 66, was gunned down outside his son Zeeshan Siddique's office in Mumbai's Bandra East. According to police, three shooters were involved in the murder and two of them, identified as Haryana resident Gurmail Baljit Singh (23) and Uttar Pradesh native Dharmaraj Rajesh Kashyap (19), have been arrested. The third accused, Shivkumar Gautam of UP, is on the run. A fourth person, believed to be the handler and who did the recce for the shootout, is also on the run, police sources said.

Zeeshan Siddique and Arshia Siddique, son and daughter of NCP leader Baba Siddique, lead his funeral procession in Bandra, Mumbai, on Sunday | ANI

"Between 9 and 9.30 pm on Sunday night, Baba Siddique was shot dead outside his son's office. The assailants fired multiple rounds, fatally striking the politician in the chest. A case has been registered and handed over to the Crime Branch for further investigation. The police nabbed two accused and recovered two pistols and 28 rounds from them," said Datta Nalawade, Deputy Commissioner of Police (crime branch), at a press conference.

Nalawade said the police are also investigating the role of the Lawrence Bishnoi gang, which claimed responsibility for the murder through a Facebook post, in the crime.

"Probe agencies are perusing the post, reportedly linked to a Facebook account of Shubuu Lonkar, who may actually be Shubham Rameshwar Lonkar, who was arrested earlier this year for possession of illegal weapons. He is believed to have strong connections with the Bishnoi network," police sources said. P8

Palestine, Syria among 34 eyeing BRICS membership

YESHI SELI @ New Delhi

PALESTINE, Syria, and Myanmar might be among the 20 countries that would either become members or partners of the BRICS grouping during its annual summit in Russia this month. In all, 34 countries have applied to join the bloc, sources said ahead of the upcoming meet in Kazan, Russia.

Ten new members and 10 partners are expected to be announced after existing members of the bloc arrive at a consensus during the summit scheduled to be held from October 22 to 24, sources said.

Partners won't have the same rights as members, but will, in all likelihood, become permanent members by the next summit, a source told this newspaper.

According to the source, the 34 candidates are: Algeria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Bolivia, Cuba, Chad, the Republic of Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Honduras, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Morocco, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Pakistan, Senegal, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, State of Palestine, Syria, Thailand, Türkiye, Uganda, Uzbekistan, Venezuela, Vietnam, and Zimbabwe.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is expected to travel to Russia later this month, his second visit to that country in three months, to take part in the summit. He is likely to hold bilateral meetings with other leaders on the sidelines of the event. There's also speculation about Modi sitting down with Chinese President Xi Jinping for a one-on-one talk.

EXPRESS READ

Gauri murder accused felicitated in Vijayapura

Vijayapura: Two of the accused in the murder of journalist Gauri Lankesh, who were released on bail recently, were honoured by leaders of Hindutva organisations here on Saturday. Parasuram Waghmore and Manohar Yadawe were felicitated with shawls and garlands. The video has gone viral on social media | P5

Siddaramaiah calls Joshi a 'terrorist'

Hubballi: Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Sunday called Union Minister and Dharwad MP Pralhad Joshi a terrorist over the latter's recent remarks that the Congress supports terrorists. Joshi reacted that the chief minister, in his frustration over losing power, is saying all sorts of things | P4

Social media injurious to mental health: Top US doc

RISHITA KHANNA @Bengaluru

SOCIAL media has created a culture of comparison that negatively impacts self-esteem, particularly among young people grappling with feelings of inadequacy and isolation, US Surgeon General **Dr Vivek Murthy** pointed out during his recent visit to Bengaluru, where discussions focused on loneliness and the pressing need for accessible mental health resources.

Murthy stressed the urgency of these issues and emphasised how the pressure to present a perfect life online is exacerbating mental health challenges.

"Many young people report feeling disconnected despite being connected online," he noted, pointing out that the pressure to showcase an ideal life on social media contributes to these feelings.

"Three key elements are essential when it comes to mental health — acceptability, accessibility, and affordability," he said, adding that there is a need to create an environment where discussing mental health is acceptable, with enough providers and facilities for accessible care, to make these services affordable. "If these facilities are lacking, individuals may hesitate to seek help," he remarked. P3

vivo
10 YEARS
OF COMMITMENT
10 YEARS WITH INDIA, FOR INDIA.
Scan the code to know more:*
We have been committed to India's growth, and will always be.
150 million+ 'Made in India' smartphones manufactured till date
1.2 million+ users added to the smartphone user base through our micro-financing partners since 2019
₹400 crores+ vivo smartphones exported from India since 2022
2,00,000 jobs being generated in India - directly and indirectly
2.5 million Indians impacted positively through our CSR initiatives
*Source: vivo India Impact Report 2023

THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

BENGALURU

ALMANAC TODAY
• Monday: 14.10.2024 • Year: Krodhi • Ayana: Dakshinayana
• Ritu: Sharad • Masa: Ashwayuja • Paksha: Shukla • Tithi: Dwadasi 12.10 am
• Nakshatra: Sathabhisha 10.16 pm • Moon in Meena Rashi • Rahukaala: 07:30 am to 09:00 am
• Gulikakala: 01:30 pm to 03:00 pm • Yamaganda: 10:30 am to 12:00 pm

WEATHER
MIN 20°C | MAX 27°C
FORECAST
Showers late. Overcast

Sunrise 06.09 am
Sunset 06.01 pm
Moonrise 03.41 pm
Moonset 02.50 am

SC TELLS BUILDER TO PAY BUYER ₹6.8 CR

Interest too must be paid from '15-'24

S LALITHA @Bengaluru

IN a major boost to home buyers struggling to get their homes in the deadline promised by builders, the Supreme Court recently ordered a builder of a Bengaluru-based project to reimburse the full amount of Rs 6.86 crore paid by the buyer along with an annual interest of 9% from 2015 till 2024.

The project — Windmills of Your Mind — is located in the EPIP Zone in Whitefield. The verdict is in favour of buyer Monica Bansal, who had paid the amount for an apartment unit on February 23, 2015. Builder -- Total Environment Building Systems Pvt Ltd -- has been ordered to compensate her for the delay of over 3 years in handing over the project.

In the process, the court has upheld the order of the National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission, New Delhi, which awarded compensation to Bansal on March 27, 2024. The builder had approached the apex court on July 12, 2024, challenging the commission's order.

The initial handover date as per the agreement was July 30, 2016. The first extended date given by the builder for possession was January 31, 2017, which was also not honoured. The commission noted that Bansal had paid more than 90% of the cost of the flat and the buyer opting for customisation cannot be held as a factor to justify the delay of more than three years. In their opinion, it is not open to the defaulting builder in relying upon the acquiescence of the allottee to justify or to dilute the consequence of delay in handing over the possession since the prime consideration for the allotee is the safety of their investment and not objecting as their first option.

Documents reveal that the first offer of possession made by the builder was as late as July 22, 2020, after having obtained the occupancy certificate on February 1, 2019.

Another home owner, Suvendu Bose, too, has approached the court.

Drivers bring down ₹200 access fee at SMVT

S LALITHA @Bengaluru

JUST over a month ago, a fee was introduced for vehicles stationed beyond 10 minutes inside the premises of Sir M Visvesvaraya Terminal in Baiyappanahalli.

Despite much publicity by the Commercial taxes department, the 'Access Control' charge met with stiff resistance from vehicles users. Through vociferous arguments, those with personal cars have managed to bring it down to a flat rate of Rs 50 instead of Rs 100, 200 or Rs 500 depending on the duration of overstay. Taxi drivers, auto-drivers and two-wheeler riders have refused to pay any amount.

When *TNIE* visited all three access control gates at the station on Wednesday, it noticed the disappearance of congestion caused earlier by vehicles which haphazardly park inside its sprawling premises. There are separate parking spaces earmarked for pre-paid autos, taxis and a separate parking space for vehicles.

In a bid to decongest the station, on September 6, the access control system was kick-started at SMVT, and Balaji Foods & Beverages was given the contract. Vehicles that come inside to drop or pick up passengers are to be penalised if they stay beyond 10 minutes. The overstay charges from 10 to 20 minutes for two-wheelers is Rs 40, and four-wheelers is Rs 100. If the time exceeds 20 minutes and is within 30 minutes, the fee is Rs 100 for two-wheelers and Rs 200 for four-wheelers. Beyond 30 minutes is a flat Rs 250 for two-wheelers and Rs 500 for four-wheelers.

Boards display rates at one of the access-control gates at Sir M Visvesvaraya Terminal at Baiyappanahalli | EXPRESS

> **We are ourselves feeling embarrassed to ask them to pay Rs 100 or Rs 200 for extra time at the station. So, we just tell anyone driving up in a car to pay Rs 50. Two-wheeler riders are just let off as most refuse to pay even this sum** — Staffer at a barrier gate

A staffer manning the barrier gate on the Banaswadi side told *TNIE*, "We tried asking car drivers staying for nearly 30 minutes to pay Rs 200. The owners/drivers argued, I remember a driver saying that even airports don't charge that much and he will not pay it. We cannot keep fighting with every driver. So we ask them to just pay Rs 50 regardless of the duration of overstay."

On Baiyappanahalli Main Road side are two barrier gates. A staffer at one gate said, "We are ourselves feeling embarrassed to ask them to pay Rs 100 or Rs 200 for extra time at the station. So, we just tell anyone driving up in a car to pay Rs 50. Two-wheeler riders are just let off as most refuse to pay even this sum." Another staff member at the counter said, "As soon as a car enters the terminal, we note the timing and vehicle number and hand over a small chit. We also caution them to leave within 10 minutes or they will have to pay. This has had an impact and a number of them try their best to leave by nine minutes!"

This is the only railway station which is having this system presently. A senior official told *TNIE*, "These are teething problems. The objective was to decongest the station and it is happening. We have decided to leave the auto and taxi drivers out of it."

Buses from stn a hit, BMTC plans 100 more trips soon

S LALITHA @Bengaluru

THE display of bus routes and their timings on 55-inch screens has just made its debut at the Sir M Visvesvaraiah Terminal (SMVT) at Baiyappanahalli, the only railway station in the city within whose premises buses transport rail passengers to different areas presently. The impressive patronage for buses here has now made the BMTC decide to run 100 more trips within the next three months.

Presently, 46 buses make 466 trips from SMVT 24x7. A well-lit, prominent bus hub has been provided by the Bengaluru Railway Division right at the entrance of the terminal.

The trips to Kempegowda Bus Station (Majestic) from where the public can get connected easily to trains, intra-state buses or Metro is the most popular. Chief Traffic Manager (Operations), BMTC, G T Prabhakar Reddy said, "We are witnessing at least 80% patronage on each of our trips. The services from within the station's premises were launched two years ago. We operate four routes now from SMVT. Route 300 MV, which connects with Kempegowda station, alone has 14 buses that run 192 trips daily. Five Volvo buses on the same route (V300 MV) run 68 trips daily. The response to the Volvo is fantastic."

Route No. MP 5 connects the station to Central Silk Board and operates 180 trips daily with 25 buses, while route No 300R connects SMVT to Yesvantpur railway station with 26 trips.

Reddy said, "Buses from this terminating point are really helping passengers who come from long distances with heavy luggage. We are now looking at running 100 more trips from SMVT to Electronics City and a few other areas before the end of this year. We are studying the demand from the public and will decide on it shortly."

Due to major redevelopment work at Bengaluru Cantonment, buses that used to operate in front of the station have been discontinued. Bus stations are at a walkable distance from KSR, Yesvantpur and KR Puram railway stations.

EXPRESS READ

125 touts arrested by RPF from Jan to Oct 6

Bengaluru: Despite online ticket booking and safety features introduced for booking of railway tickets, the menace of touts at railway stations continues. As this is likely to shoot up in light of the ongoing festive season, the Railway Protection Force (RPF) is intensifying efforts to curb it. Senior Divisional Commercial Manger, Bengaluru Division, Krishna S Chaitanya, told TNIE, "As many as 125 individuals have been arrested from January this year till October 6. The number of cases booked stands at 116. The value of the tickets seised from these agents stand at Rs 16,65,065." The number of cases which have resulted in a conviction is 85, he added. The fine amount collected stood at Rs 5,06,200. **ENS**

Cab shortage at KIA with drivers on Dasara break

Flyers returning from their holiday break had to wait for more than half-an-hour at Terminal 2 of KIA to get a cab to head home. Queues piled up both at the Uber and Ola pick-up points. Uber's T2 in-charge Ambarish conceded there was a shortage of cabs. "Many of our drivers are from North Karnataka and have gone home for Dasara. Due to the huge number of departing flights in the evening and night, many of our cabs have gone to the city to pick up customers. Only when they reach the airport, we can provide services to others waiting." **ENS**

NGO seeks conservation measures at Nandi Hills

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

THE Universal Human Rights Service Foundation has raised alarm about environmental threats facing Nandi Hills, a crucial source for five major rivers, including the Arkavathy and Chitravati, essential for the livelihood of millions.

The region, known for its unique geological and biodiversity significance, is increasingly endangered by industrial activities and quarrying.

At an event recently, the NGO called for the immediate reinstatement of the Parks (Preservation) Act of 1975, which has been weakened by recent amendments allowing unauthorised constructions. It pushed for strict conservation measures, sustainable development and eco-friendly tourism to safeguard the hills.

President of the organisation CD Kiran highlighted that the rivers and springs originating from Nandi Hills have been beneficial to the region's people, making it essential to understand the demographics, and ensure protection of this vital setup. However, quarrying activities have already caused significant harm, and the introduction of high-end machinery threatens to worsen the situation, leading to increased air and water pollution, soil erosion, landslides and destruction of natural habitats.

Nearby cities, particularly Bengaluru, face severe environmental problems, he said, adding that preserving Nandi Hills is crucial for maintaining a clean air and water corridor, supporting biodiversity and ecosystem services, and providing a natural haven for recreation and relaxation.

The speakers stressed that to protect this historic, cultural, geological and biodiversity hub, it is essential to pursue the declaration of Nandi Hills as a World Heritage Site.

Expo of Mysore paintings at Chitrakala starts

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

A WEEK-long exhibition of Mysore paintings will be inaugurated at Chitrakala Parishat on Monday.

"The Mysore school is part of the great Indian tradition in painting as described in ancient works like the Vishnudharmottara Purana and Manasollasa. It was practised in ancient Karnataka. Caves at Ajanta, Ellora and Badami contain specimens of such paintings by ancient painters from this region. The present forms were developed in Vijayanagara under the patronage of several monarchs," said exhibition organiser J E Vitthal Rao.

"Most of the subjects of the paintings are mythological, religious and most of them are treated as objects of worship," Rao said.

The exhibition will have over 100 paintings. Entry is free for all from October 14-20 from 10 am to 8 pm.

One-day fast to rally support for Sonam Wangchuk

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

FRIENDS of Ladakh-Bengaluru organised a one-day fast at Freedom Park on Sunday in support of climate activist Sonam Wangchuk in his fight to bring Ladakh under the ambit of the 6th schedule of the Constitution. The 6th schedule for Ladakh can enable the conservation of nature along with empowering locals towards development and opportunities, the organisers said.

"Sonam Wangchuk, in his endeavour to save Ladakh, its natural resources, and the indigenous people, held a 21-day climate fast in March in Ladakh to remind the Union government of its promise to bring Ladakh under the 6th schedule. In September, Sonam and his team walked 1,000 km from Ladakh to New Delhi, hoping to take their demand to the government directly. Sonam and his team are on a fast unto death at Ladakh Bhavan in Delhi. In support of this cause, more than 50 residents of Bengaluru, which also includes the community of Ladakhis residing in the city, came together on Sunday for a silent fast to showcase their solidarity with Sonam and the people of Ladakh," the organisers said.

Daily Starscope

PETER VIDAL

14TH October: This is a very important moment for people who use astrology as part of their religious or spiritual system. It's definitely time to look at the long-term and focus on any positive and constructive developments which can be achieved over the next few years.

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr. 20)
That time of the year is now upon us when communications begin to flow, decisions are easier to take and even vague agreements can be firmed up. You must realise that patience is indeed a virtue and that sometimes fantasies count for more than facts. That has to be a good thing!

TAURUS (Apr. 21 - May 21)
News from abroad is on its way but, while it seems inevitable that some sort of information will arrive, the details and consequences may be unclear for some time to come. You may be in the dark for a week or two - but then that will give you plenty of time to get your act together.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)
Whatever mistakes you have made in recent times may soon be repeated, but with a difference: this time you'll have a chance to put things right and repair any rifts that have opened up. You see, although some emotional patterns come round again and again, each time your circums-tances are different.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)
You may be finding out that there is no such simple thing as 'good luck'. Every opportunity involves a price; every new responsi-bility brings you into contact with new challen-ges and conflicts. It is in dealing with these situa-tions that you mature and grow.

LEO (July 24 - Aug. 23)
As from today you are going to find it that much harder to make yourself understood - the world will be full of brick walls, all inviting you to come and bang your head. On the other hand, a little flexibility and tolerance will work wonders - and gather goodwill for the future.

VIRGO (Aug. 24 - Sept. 23)
You are still in a fiery phase and, with the correct approach, there is little that you can't achieve. You may, if you wish, sweep all opposition to one side with a single broad gesture. But make sure that you don't get rid of people you need in the process!

LIBRA (Sept. 24 - Oct. 23)
Unless you are careful you may find yourself suddenly left high and dry when friends move on, possibly abandoning agreements that you thought were binding. You must reconsider your own motives over the next week or so - and don't get flustered if other people pressurise you.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22)
Recent emotional queries and frustrations are shortly to emerge into the open. However, you will still be personally unwilling to come clean about a number of your hopes, wishes and inner motives. But, then, there is no reason why you should reveal all your deepest desires.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 - Dec. 22)
It's difficult to work out whether you feel worse or better as a result of recent expendi-ture and purchases. One thing is certain, though, which is that your reactions have been overwhelmingly emotional. Perhaps an older relation has the advice you need - but you'll never know unless you ask.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 23 - Jan. 20)
You're being affected by three different levels of planetary patterns. We'll start today with the short-term alignments that are bringing out your compassionate, maternal instincts but making you rather too sensitive. How about growing a thicker skin?

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 - Feb. 19)
Anything that happens today will be obscured by shadows, perhaps the ghosts of the past. Your response will be an expanding need for privacy. However, it also seems that there'll be a great deal of routine business to attend to, the sort that keeps you good and busy.

PISCES (Feb. 20 - Mar 20)
The next major lunar alignment will bring a healthy dose of excitement. Bear in mind that time is on your side, and that you should therefore spend this week actively defusing the causes of explosive discontent. And, as an added extra, why don't you give partners the benefit of the doubt.

Solutions to Friday's puzzle ⬇

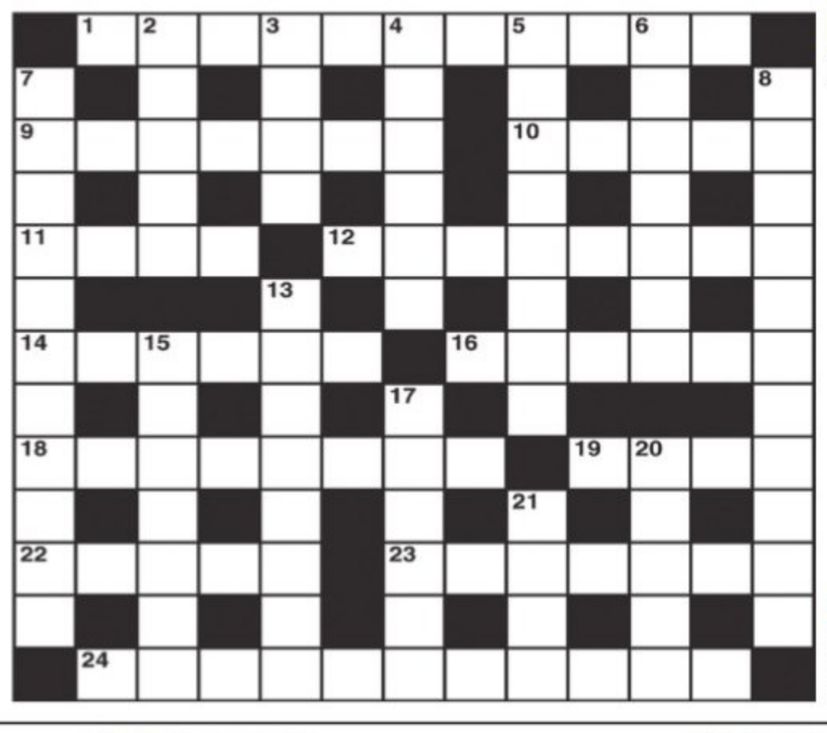
	3	7		6				8
		2	8		9	3		
9		8	2	4				
				9		7	6	
	2		7		5		8	
	9	5		3				
				2	4	8		6
		6	1		7	5		
2				5		4	3	

8	1	3	4	9	6	5	7	2
9	2	6	3	7	5	4	8	1
7	4	5	2	8	1	6	3	9
2	5	8	7	4	9	3	1	6
1	3	4	6	2	8	7	9	5
6	7	9	5	1	3	8	2	4
3	9	2	8	5	4	1	6	7
4	6	7	1	3	2	9	5	8
5	8	1	9	6	7	2	4	3

SUDOKU EASY

TEST YOUR NUMBER CRUNCHING SKILL WITH OUR UNIQUE PUZZLE

Fill in the grid with digits in such a manner that every row, every column and every 3X3 box accommodates the digits 1 to 9, without repeating any.



CROSS WORD

ACROSS
1 Complaint of the motorist using too much petrol? (11)
9 I managed to name a Persian (7)
10 Fall in production of plums (5)
11 Turns and leaves (4)
12 More of the same in Latin (2,6)
14 Change roles? (6)
16 Prosecuted about it but satisfied (6)
18 Peer's son gives wrong answers (8)
19 Before midday the doc gets shot (4)
22 No permission for recesses (5)
23 A group on leave (7)
24 This form of state aid can be rather remote (2,1,8)

DOWN
2 Gold blend tea in spout (5)
3 Take off the garment right away (4)
4 Time taken by a secretary (6)
5 Fault set right and proper (8)
6 By endless work advanced to become rich (7)
7 An offhand impression (11)
8 Vicissitudes rarely encountered in Holland (3,3,5)
13 Married in the old-fashioned way (8)
15 Get rid of players on strike (4,3)
17 Awards given for zero marks (6)
20 Italian bankers I left to become a doctor (5)
21 A delay cuts back the celebration (4)

FRIDAY'S SOLUTIONS

Across: 1 Wield, 4 Unclear, 8 Eat, 9 Credulous, 10 Tea urns, 11 Sifts, 13 Evilly, 15 Asleep, 18 Steam, 19 Heathen, 21 Capitally, 23 Ida, 24 Strides, 25 Sides.

Down: 1 Wreathe, 2 Extradite, 3 Decor, 4 Uneasy, 5 Courses, 6 Ego, 7 Rasps, 12 Fresh wind, 14 Limited, 16 Punkahs, 17 Chills, 18 Socks, 20 Abyss, 22 Par.

JUMBLE

UNSCRAMBLE THESE JUMBLES, ONE LETTER TO EACH SQUARE, TO FORM FOUR ORDINARY WORDS.

BY DAVID L. HOYT AND JEFF KNUREK

NUYOG

ROLYG

TBIRET

ULNOEG

Let's go! We're running late.
Be there in a flash!
Time isn't on our side!
Well then start it up!
Get the free JUST JUMBLE app • Follow us on Twitter @PlayJumble
8 19
THE STONES CONCERT WAS OVER, AND MICK AND THE GUYS WERE READY ---

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

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(Answers tomorrow)

Friday's Jumbles: EAGLE MAKER FIDDLE CANOPY
Answer: For her husband, a new pair of glasses with an updated prescription was — CLEARLY NEEDED

A 12-year-old boy died under suspicious circumstances in Udupi on Saturday. The deceased is Mohammad Zahid. Zahid's mother, Rihana Begum stated that her son was staying in a madrasa hostel in Ranganakere, Brahmavar taluk, over the last four months while studying at a private school. The incident occurred a day after he returned to the hostel after his vacation on October 11

Woman murders two children with paramour

Suspicious graveyard worker alerts cops

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

IN a horrific incident, a woman along with her paramour killed her three-year-old daughter and 11-month-old son, assuming that the children were an obstacle in their illicit relationship. The incident occurred in Ijoor police limits in Ramanagara.

The police have arrested the accused -- **Sweety** (24), a domestic help, and her paramour **Gregory Francis** (27), who works in a BPO, for allegedly murdering three-year-old Kabila and 11-month-old Kabiran. The accused were living in a rented house near Kempegowda Circle in Ramanagara.

The police said the crime came to light on October 9, after a graveyard worker grew suspicious when the couple buried the second child in the same graveyard in over a week. After the alert, the police questioned the duo, who confessed to the murders. It was revealed that they assaulted and smothered Kabila to death on October 1 and buried her in the graveyard, claiming that the child died because of an illness. A week later, on October 7, they smothered the 11-month-old baby and buried him in the same location. The graveyard worker, who grew suspicious, clicked a photograph of the couple and sent it to the cops, the police said.

The police further said that based on the photo, they tracked down the accused. During questioning, they confessed to the murders, stating that the children were an obstacle to their relationship.

"Sweety's husband had filed a missing persons' complaint with the DJ Halli police in Bengaluru on September 19, after his wife left the house along with their two children," the police added.

The Ijoor police are planning to exhume the bodies and send them for postmortem as part of the ongoing investigation. A murder case has been registered against the accused.

CRIME PATROL

Five-year-old mowed down by mini-truck

Bengaluru: A five-year-old boy died after falling under the wheels of a mini-truck on Friday. The incident occurred at Govindapura road in the KG Halli police station limits. The deceased Taher Pasha, is a resident of Byatarayanpura. The police stated that Taher was visiting his grandmother's house for the holidays. On Friday evening, while heading home after playing with friends, he accidentally hit his shoulder on the handlebar of a parked scooter on the roadside, leading to a fall, when a mini truck knocked him down. After hearing the scream, the family and other residents rushed him to a nearby hospital, where doctors declared him brought dead. The incident was recorded on a CCTV camera of a nearby house. The police arrested the driver, Prasanth.

COLOURFUL END

Devotees celebrate as they proceed for the immersion of Goddess Durga idol at JC Nagar in Bengaluru on Sunday | ALLEN EGENUSE J

Jailed murder accused threatens witnesses through social media

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

A jailed murder accused in the Bengaluru Central Prison at Parappana Agrahara has allegedly sent a voice message through social media to an autorickshaw driver, threatening the latter and other witnesses not to testify against him.

The Central Crime Branch (CCB) police have registered a case based on the auto driver's complaint. The victim, Arumugam -- a resident of LR Nagar, is a key witness in the murder of one Babli, who was killed in Koramangala two years ago. Somashekar alias Soma, a rowdy-sheeter, is an accused in the case.

According to the FIR, Arumugam on September 23 received three voice messages from an Instagram account -- 'Salaga Soma'.

The sender had verbally abused Arumugam in Tamil and Kannada. He threatened that no one should testify in the Joseph alias Babli murder case. He and other accused also said the messages should be passed on to Babli's wife, Sunil alias Sundili, George and Nathan.

The accused allegedly said that though he is in jail, he has managed to finish off Military Satish and the witnesses in the case could meet the same fate if they do not heed to his warning. He also warned that Arumugam will be bumped off if he does not pass the message to others.

The police are investigating in the matter.

70-yr-old refuses to wear undergarment, murdered by son

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

A septuagenarian was killed by his son over the trivial issue of not wearing an undergarment, at Janata Colony on the outskirts of Bengaluru on Saturday night. The Bannerghatta police have arrested the accused.

The deceased, Velayudhan (76), hailing from Kerala, had health issues. The accused, Vinod Kumar (42), is a private firm employee.

The police said that around 11.30 am on Saturday, an argument broke out between the father and son, resulting in the murder. Vinod had asked his father to wear shorts under his dhoti, which led to a heated argument.

During the altercation, Vinod manhandled and punched Velayudhan, pushing him against a wall, causing a head injury. Velayudhan died before he was taken to a hospital.

After the incident, Kumar fled the scene and the family alerted the cops. The police arrived at the scene, sent the body for a postmortem, and arrested Vinod on Sunday morning.

'Many curricula don't address mental health issues'

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

ADDRESSING the immense academic and social pressures faced by students, both in the US and India, Dr Vivek Murthy said this pressure to succeed academically, coupled with comparison fostered by social media, can lead to significant stress. He called for urgent reforms in medical education to better integrate mental health training.

He mentioned that many medical curricula have not adequately addressed mental health issues, noting that for too long, mental and social health have been viewed as less important than physical health. "To improve understanding, we need to create experiential learning opportunities for medical students, such as engaging with individuals facing mental health challenges," he explained.

US Surgeon General Dr Vivek Murthy during his visit to Bengaluru | EXPRESS

Expressing concern over loneliness, he highlighted that it is not about being physically alone, but it is a subjective feeling of disconnection. He argued that health insurance companies must take the same amount of time to reimburse mental healthcare claims as physical healthcare claims as it is vital to ensure everyone has access to necessary mental health support.

International Institute for Population Sciences
[Deemed to be University]
An Autonomous Organization of Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Govt. of India, Govandi Station Road, Deonar, Mumbai – 400088.
Contact Details: Tel: 91-22- 42372468
Email: admission@iipsindia.ac.in Website: www.iipsindia.ac.in

ADMISSION ANNOUNCEMENT – ACADEMIC YEAR 2024-2025

The International Institute for Population Sciences (IIPS), an autonomous organization established in 1956 under the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India, invites applications for admission to Post-Doctoral Fellowship Programme, Academic Year 2024-2025. Monthly Fellowship is Rs. 50,000/- + HRA as per rule.

Last date to submit offline application: 29th November 2024

For more details, please visit: www.iipsindia.ac.in

DIRECTOR [ADDITIONAL CHARGE]

Government of Karnataka
Additional Chief Secretary to Government
Finance Department,
Vidhana Soudha, Bengaluru
No.: FD 01 BMB 2024 Date: 10.10.2024

KARNATAKA GOVERNMENT STOCK (SECURITIES)

1. Aggregate Amount : Total Rs. 4000 Crore (Rs. 2000 Crore- 10 Year Tenure), (Rs. 2000 crore- 11 Year Tenure)
2. Method of Issue : By auction, through PDO, RBI, Mumbai (Fort)
3. Date of auction : October 15, 2024

Government of Karnataka invites subscription to the above securities. Copies of the Notification and Application forms may be obtained from PDO, RBI, Bengaluru. Non-competitive bidding facility has been introduced by RBI to encourage participation of retail investors. The Government stock up to 10% of the notified amount of the sale will be allotted to eligible individuals and institutions. Sample Tender Forms and the revised scheme of Non-competitive bidding facility is available on the website **www.rbi.org.in.**

Sd/-
Dr. P.C. Jaffer
Secretary to Government
(Budget & Resources)
Finance Department

DIPR/DD-C.P/2478/KSMCA/2024-25

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IN CONVERSATION WITH EXPERTS

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SOUTHERN RAILWAY

Electrical (General), Construction, Chennai Egmore

Tender Notice No.: E148-CN-TPJ-TF-044, Dated: 09.10.2024

For and on behalf of the President of India, The Deputy Chief Electrical Engineer / General / construction / Southern Railway / Egmore / Chennai - 600 008 invites E-Tender for the following works.

Name of work: Provision of Street lighting arrangements for ROB at Railway Km. 20/500-600 and HTUG cable 3 core 400 sq.mm laying under the track near the LUS No.20 in **Karaikal - Thirunallaru** Section - Works Contract.

	Tender Notice No. and Date	**E148-CN-TPJ-TF-044, Dated.09.10.2024**
1	Period of completion	**Four months**
2	Approximate cost of the work	**₹ 39,20,588.79**
3	Cost of tender form	**Nil**
4	Earnest Money deposited	**₹ 78,500/-**
5	Tender closing date	**31.10.2024**

Complete details can be seen on **www.ireps.gov.in**

Deputy Chief Electrical Engineer / General / Construction / Egmore, Chennai-600 008

WESTERN RAILWAY - BHAVNAGAR DIVISION

VARIOUS ENGINEERING WORKS

Sr. No.	E-Tender No & Name of Work	Tender Value (Rs.)	EMD Rs.
1	126/2024-25-R	4,87,86,356.31	3,93,900.00
	Songadh: Provision of Foot Over Bridge at with provision of Lift Well		
2	127-2024-25	34,40,114.93	68,800.00
	Renovation and improvement of Health units at Botad Dholka and Dhola stations against sanctioned work of Bhavnagar Division Renovation and improvement of Health units at 8 stations.		
3	128-2024-25	47,73,550.09	95,500.00
	Bhavnagar Division: Interlocking of Level Crossing gate No. 42/C (Moraiya-Matoda) & 35/C (Sharkhej-Moraiya)		
4	129-2024-25	5,52,98,125.87	4,26,500.00
	Jetalsar Jn.-Somnath (SL)-TRR (P)- 26.000 Tkm.		

For All above Tender : Bidding Start Date: 15/10/2024 Bidding Closing Date : 29/10/2024
NIT has been uplo aded on railway web site **www.ireps.gov.in** on **Date : 07-10-2024** 115

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L&T Finance Limited
(Erstwhile, L&T Finance Holdings Limited)
Registered Office: L&T Finance Limited, Brindavan Building
Plot No. 177, Kalina, CST Road, Near Mercedes Showroom
Santacruz (East), Mumbai 400 098
CIN No.: L67120MH2008PLC181833
Branch office: Bangalore

L&T Finance

PUBLIC AUCTION FOR SALE OF MORTGAGED PROPERTY

The Authorised Officer of L&T Finance Limited under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 [54 OF 2002] and in exercise of powers conferred under the said Act is auctioning the following property on **"ÄS IS WHERE IS BASIS" and "AS IS WHAT IS CONDITION"** by way of **"PUBLIC AUCTION"** for recovery of its dues and further interest, charges and costs etc.

Name of Borrower and Co-Borrower	Secured Property Address	Loan Account Number(s)	Physical Possession Taken	Earnest Money Deposit 10% or more of RP (In ₹)	Total Outstanding dues as on 09.10.2024	Reserve Price (In ₹)	Date of Inspection	Date and Time of Auction
1) Nayaz Pasha 2) Neelufar Banu	**SCHEDULE – I** All the piece and parcel of the Property Address: Property Bearing Site No. 1581, Situated At Sathagalli Layout, Nazarbad Mohalla, Mysore 570018 And Measuring East To West 24 Meters, North To South 15 Meters, Bounded On :- Boundaries: East – Site No. 1590; West – Road; North – Site No. 1582; South – Site No. 1580	MYSHL15 000444	17.04.2023	Rs.17,24,375/-	Rs. 2,477,609.37/-	Rs. 1,72,43,750 /-	On all working day from 10.00 A.M to 5.30 P.M with Prior Appointment.	21.11.2024 from 12.P.M to 2.00 P.M.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF PUBLIC AUCTION

1. The E-auction Sale is being conducted online by the Authorised Officer through the website https://sarfaesi.auctiontiger.net/EPROC/ under the provisions of SARFAESI Act with the aid and through public e-E-auction mode.
2. The public E-auction will be conducted on the date and time mentioned herein above, when the secured asset/s mentioned above will be sold on **"AS IS WHERE IS" BASIS & "AS IS WHAT IT IS" CONDITION.**
3. For participating in the public E-auction, intending purchasers/bidders will have to submit the details of payment of refundable Earnest Money Deposit of 10 % of the reserve price of the secured assets along with copies of the PANCARD, Board Resolutions in case of company and Address Proof on or before **20/11/2024.**
4. The EMD of all other bidders who did not succeed in the public E-auction will be refunded by LTF within 7 days of the closure of the public E-auction. The EMD will not carry any interest.
5. The successful purchaser/bidder shall deposit the 25 % (inclusive of EMD) of his/its offer by way of by way of D.D./P. O favoring "L&T Finance Limited" payable at Mumbai on or before 18:00 hours on **21/11/2024** i.e., day of e-auction or on the next working day i.e., **22/11/2024**, which deposit will have to confirmed by L&T Finance Limited, failing which the sale will be deemed have been failed and the EMD of the said successful bidder shall be forfeited. The balance amount i.e.,75% of purchase price payable shall be paid by the purchaser to L&T Finance Limited on or before the fifteenth day of confirmation of sale of immovable property or such extended period as per provisions of law.
6. For inspection of property or more information, the prospective bidders may contact the authorised officer i.e. **Name - Satheesha R, Contact No. 9738141146, L&T Finance Limited,1st Floor & 5th Floor, Site No. 92, Zed Square, JNC Road, 5th Block, Koramangala, Bangalore - 95 and Santosh Tiwari, Contact No. 9920490126, L&T Finance Ltd, Office: 6th Floor, Brindavan Building, Plot No. 177, Kalina, CST Road, Near Mercedes Showroom, Santacruz (East), Mumbai - 400 098.** At any stage of the E-auction, the Authorised Officer may accept/reject/modify/cancel the bid/offer or post-pone the E-auction without assigning any reason thereof and without any prior notice.
7. The successful purchaser/bidder shall bear any statutory dues, taxes, fees payable, stamp duty, registration fees, etc. that is required to be paid in order to get the property conveyed/delivered in his/her/its favour as per the applicable law.
8. The Borrower/Guarantors, who are liable for the said outstanding dues, shall treat this Sale Notice as a notice under Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, about the holding of above-mentioned public E-auction sale.
9. The Borrower (s) /Co-Borrower(s)/Guarantor(s)/Mortgagor(s) are hereby called up on to pay the entire loan outstanding dues as mentioned above before the said E-auction date failing which the L&T Finance Ltd shall sale the property as per the provisions laid down in the SARFAESI ACT,2002.
10. The Borrower (s) /Co-Borrower(s)/Guarantor(s)/Mortgagor(s) /public at large are hereby restrained from transferring by way of sale, lease or otherwise with the secured assets referred to in the notice without prior written consent of L&T Finance Limited.

Date: 14.10.2024
Place: Bangalore

Sd/-
Authorized Officer
For L&T Finance Limited

Bank of Baroda
Banashaknari Branch
Bengaluru
(A Government of India undertaking)

POSSESSION NOTICE
(FOR IMMOVABLE PROPERTY ONLY)

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of Bank of Baroda, under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (Second) Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under Sec 13(12) read with Rule-3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002 issued Demand Notice dated **14.02.2024** calling upon the Borrower **Shri Gottigere H. Sridhar** , S/o. Dr. G. V. Honnappa, **Smt. Shalini Sridhar**, W/o. Gottigere H. Sridhar, **Ms. Nidhi Sridhar** D/o. Gottigere H. Sridhar, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being under of **Rs 23,46,479.39** (Rupees Twenty Three lakhs Forty Six Thousand Four Hundred and Seventy Nine and Paise Thirty nine Only) within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The Borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under Section (4) of Section 13 of the Act read with rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 on this the **9th day of July of the year 2024.**

The borrower/Guarantor/Mortgagor in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the Bank of Baroda for an amount of **Rs 23,46,479.39** (Rupees Twenty Three lakhs Forty Six Thousand Four Hundred and Seventy Nine and Paise Thirty nine Only) and interest thereon at the contractual rate plus cost, charges and expenses till date of payment.

The borrower's attention is invited to sub-section (8) of Section 13 in respect of time available to redeem the secured assets.

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

All that part and parcel of the property bearing Western side site No. 2595/1, BBMP PID No. 194-W0833-6, BBMP Khata No. 2455/2595/1/1, Conversion Sy. No. 22/1, situated at Gottigere Village, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bangalore South, measuring East to West (75+116)/2 ft. and North to South (84+98)/2 ft. and adjacent vacant site measuring East to West 60 ft. and North to South (35+39) ft. and bounded on the North by: 20 ft Road, on the South by: G. V. Krishnamurthy Property, On the East by: 10 ft Road and GV Honnappa's property, On the West by: Sy. No. 20/1 Land property.

Place: Bengaluru
Date: 09.07.2024

Sd-Authorised Officer
Bank of Baroda, Banashankari Branch

SOUTHERN RAILWAY

Electrical (General), Construction, Chennai Egmore

Tender Notice No. E-HQ-CN-MS-EOT10-2024-25, Dated: 09.10.2024

For and on behalf of the President of India, The Deputy Chief Electrical Engineer / General / Construction / Southern Railway / Egmore, Chennai - 600 008 invites E-Tender for the following Work.

Name of Work: Chinnasalem - Kallakurichi Section:- Shifting and Modification to HT 22kV - 10 Nos. and LT - 20 Nos Over Head Power Line Crossings by underground cables - (Phase-II) - Works Contract.

	Tender Notice No. and Date	**E-HQ-CN-MS-EOT10-2024-25, Dated: 09.10.2024**
1	Period of Completion	**6 Months**
2	Approximate Cost of Work	**₹ 1,25,48,412.30**
3	Cost of Tender form	**Nil**
4	Earnest Money Deposited	**₹ 2,12,800/-**
5	Tender Closing Date	**04.11.2024**

Complete details can be seen on **www.ireps.gov.in**

Deputy Chief Electrical Engineer / General / Construction / Egmore, Chennai-600 008

POSSESSION NOTICE

Whereas, the authorized officer of **Jana Small Finance Bank Limited** (Formerly known as Janalakshmi Financial Services Limited)., under the Securitization And Reconstruction of Financial Assets And Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(2) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002 issued **demand notices** to the borrower(s)/ Co-borrower(s) calling upon the borrowers to repay the amount mentioned against the respective names together with interest thereon at the applicable rates as mentioned in the said notices within **60 days** from the date of receipt of the said notices, along with future interest as applicable, incidental expenses, costs, charges etc incurred till the date of payment and/ or realisation.

Sr. No.	Loan No.	Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Guarantor/ Mortgagor	13(2) Notice Date/ Outstanding Due (in Rs.) as on	Date/ Time & Type of Possession
1	30139630000168	1) Mrs. Shivagami P, 2) Mr. Palani	05.08.2024 Rs.14,81,866.12 (Rupees Fourteen Lakh Eighty One Thousand Eight Hundred Sixty Six and Twelve Paisa Only) due as on 04-08-2024	Date: 09.10.2024 Time: 03.03 PM Symbolic Possession

Description of the Property: All that piece and parcel of Property bearing House List No.91/91, Khatha No.91. Situated at Byrathi Bande Village, Byrathi Dhakle, Bidarahalli Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, now comes under BBMP limits, Bangalore and **Bounded by the: East by:** Property belongs to Smt. Latha, **West by:** Property belongs to Sri Thimmappa, **North by:** Road & **South by:** Property belongs to Sri Kumar. Measuring East to West: 30 feet, North to South: 50 feet, total measuring 1500 Sq.feet along with 4 square of AC Sheet roofed building.

Whereas, the Borrower's/ Co-borrowers'/ Guarantor's/ Mortgagors, mentioned herein above have failed to repay the amounts due, notice is hereby given to the Borrower's mentioned herein above in particular and to the Public in general that the authorized officer of **Jana Small Finance Bank Limited** has **taken symbolic possession** of the properties/ secured assets described herein above in exercise of powers conferred on him under section 13 (4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on the dates mentioned above. The Borrower's/ Co-borrower's/ Guarantor's/ Mortgagors, mentioned herein above in particular and the Public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the aforesaid properties/ Secured Assets and any dealings with the said properties/ Secured Assets will be subject to the charge of **Jana Small Finance Bank Limited.**

Place: Bangalore
Date: 14.10.2024

Sd/- Authorised Officer
For. Jana Small Finance Bank Limited

JANA SMALL FINANCE BANK
(A scheduled commercial bank)

Registered Office: The Fairway, Ground & First Floor, Survey No.10/1, 11/2 & 12/2B, Off Domlur, Koramangla Inner Ring Road, Next to EGL Business Park, Challaghatta, Bangalore-560071.

After a series of rallies held by BJP leaders as part of their campaign for the Sandur bypoll, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah is scheduled to hold a mega public function in the Assembly constituency, which is expected to go to polls soon

'POACHING HAS COME DOWN, BUT CONFLICTS HAVE INCREASED'

PIC: VINOD KUMAR T

POACHING has come down, but man-animal conflicts have increased, said Forest, Environment and Ecology Minister **Eshwar B Khandre**, in conversation with *TNIE*. He said it is ironic that on one hand land for compensatory afforestation is being given for mining, while struggle is on for rehabilitating the displaced who lost their land for government projects, like Sharavathi.

What are the challenges in enhancing the green cover?
The challenge is clearing encroachments. In Karnataka, over 2lakh acres of forest land has been encroached. Cases are pending before the High Court and Supreme Court. In the Godavarman judgment, the SC has said that once a forest, always a forest. In Bengaluru, over 2,000 acres of forest land is encroached. Directions have been issued to start clearing large encroachments, and in the last 15 months, around 6,000-7,000 acres of forest land has been recovered. Many initiatives and reforms have been done in our department. Today, the universal challenge is climate change and global warming. We have to conserve forests and wildlife. Soon after I took charge, I issued orders to increase forest cover from the existing 22% to 33%, which is the standard. I instructed officers to annually plant five crore saplings. Last year, 5.48 crore saplings were planted, while this year, 3.5 crore saplings have been planted. Around 85% survival rate has been reported, which has been confirmed through a third-party audit. Orders have also been issued to geo-tag the saplings and put information in public domain.

Is there any reason to clear only large encroachments?
Small encroachments have taken place which might be due to the negligence of forest officials. The Forest Rights Act (FRA) came into force in 2006 and the Forest Conservation Act in 1980. Before implementing FRA, forest-dwellers should have been rehabilitated or lands should have been given to them, which was not done. In 2006, the government invited applications from those residing inside forests. Over one lakh applications were received, of which only 5% were found eligible. We cannot displace them suddenly.

Do you think the forest and environment departments get their due importance?
The departments were not taken seriously earlier and an example of this is the Sharavathi case, which was a significant project. Thousands of people were displaced. Back then, they were rehabilitated in forest areas. As per rules, if someone is displaced to forest areas before the 1980s and the land has been denotified, then it can be allotted to anyone. This is a central government stand and an SC order. But this was not done then. During the previous Siddaramaiah government, the land was allotted through a cabinet decision. But it was challenged in courts and quashed by the HC and SC, stating that it was not as per law. They said that if land has to be allotted for rehabilitation, then the permission of SC and central government is needed. So now an IA has been filed in the SC.

Is this the only case?
Such exploitation and injustice has been happening for years and we have not been able to address it. There are thousands of people who can't sell their land, avail agricultural loans or any benefit from government schemes. Another case is the Bhadra project. Some have been rehabilitated, but they are yet to get their rights. It is said only politically, but not done on the ground.

Are you taking up a consolidated survey of displaced people affected due to various projects?
I have spoken to the revenue and irrigation ministers. We have to sit together and formulate a policy as it is a collective responsibility of revenue and irrigation departments. People who stayed there for years have been thrown out. This is the reality. There should be a joint survey by forest and revenue departments. In some cases, the revenue department has no land records. I have planned to make a note of all these things and appeal to the SC to consider these cases on humanitarian grounds as people have been living there and this is their right.

What will happen in future when projects like Mekedatu come up?
Nobody will be displaced for any project. Forest areas are demarcated. No land can be given until forest clearance is obtained. Agencies, including from the state/central governments or others, have to apply through Parivesh portal and there are set rules. They have to give land for compensatory afforestation (CA) along with net present value. Proposals are then sent to the central government, where a committee examines the proposal. Sanctions are given only for site-specific projects.

EXPRESS Dialogues

What about tribals living inside forests?
Rehabilitation of tribals staying in conservation reserves is a problem. In some cases, they have been staying legally in the forests for centuries, but don't have any basic infrastructure, including electricity or roads. Though it is their own land, they cannot do anything. On one hand, we are giving land for mining, in exchange for CA lands and money for afforestation; on the other it is their own land and we are not giving them anything. This is a serious issue to be looked into. They should be brought into the mainstream. Either we have to give them infrastructure, education and healthcare facilities, or shift them by giving some special packages. There is one package, where a family gets Rs 15 lakh if they shift out. In some cases, it has been done, like Bhadra Tiger Reserve where around 736 families have moved out. It is a success story in India. Rehabilitation is required.

Why has the tribal relocation programme stopped?
It has not stopped. Budgetary allocation is very less. Around Rs 5-10 crore is allocated annually. I will submit a proposal to the finance department and to the chief minister for a one-time sanction of Rs 150-200 crore so that we can shift them all.

What is the rate of wildlife offences and poaching in the state?
It has come down to around 1%. There are around 200 anti-poaching camps and around 1,000 people work there. We have 6,395 elephants and 563 tigers. Animal population is increasing, but not the forest area. Human population is also increasing. We have residential layouts till the edge of forests and they are only increasing. People have to learn to coexist with animals. Poaching has come down, but man-animal conflicts have increased. Eco-sensitive zones and buffer zones have come down. We need to be very strict on this.

What challenges the forest department is facing in handling the weed invasion in forests?
Weeds are a major issue, particularly in Nagarahole and Bandipur Tiger Reserves. Nearly 50% of forest is covered by invasive species. The limited allocation of funds of around Rs 3-5crore makes it difficult to tackle the issue. Some volunteer organisations have come forward, but they need financial support from the department or CSR funds to carry out the work. Uprooting weeds is a challenge as it needs to be done manually. Weeds also contribute to man-animal conflict, as animals are forced to leave forests.

There are many issues with the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board in clearing projects, addressing air and water pollution and postings. Why is the situation still unresolved?
I completely agree. The Board is a statutory body, with the chairman serving a three-year term, along with other members. There is significant room for improvement in addressing challenges, especially of air and water pollution. Like, sewage treatment plants not functioning properly, and issues like e-waste, oil waste, and construction waste need to be handled effectively. We need the right people in place to address these problems. We are pushing for reforms, but it will take time to see tangible results.

How is climate change contributing to disasters?
Landslides in Shirur and Wayanad highlight the growing impact of climate change. Addressing these climate-related challenges requires more than just laws and regulations. Awareness is crucial. Enforcing climate regulations is also difficult, as we don't have the capacity to handle thousands of cases at once.

HMT land has become a much-talked about subject. It has almost become a confrontational issue with the central government...
There is no question of confrontation with anyone. HMT land of around 599 acres is forest department land and there is a gazette notification stating the land belongs to the forest department. In 1963, the Urban Development Department, without any approval from the state government, handed it over to HMT. In 2006, they started selling land, sold nearly 163 acres and earned Rs 313 crore. Some wrong decisions have also been made by the department officials. It is government land and will be taken back. The additional chief secretary has been instructed to issue a show-cause notice to officials who were involved.

What will happen now?
We have to follow the rules. Third party rights have been created on properties now due to negligence of then government officers. Around 280 acres of land is still vacant. We can give alternative land. HMT has another 100 acres in Bengaluru. HMT did not sell its land, but sold forest land. In exchange, they can give this land to the department. Now the case is before the Supreme Court. The aim is to create a lung space like Lal Bagh or Cubbon Park in the reclaimed forest land.

What about the Kasturi Rangan Report?
The central government issued a notification for the sixth time. The report came out in 2013. There have been a lot of changes in the last 11 years. The report recommended declaring 20,664 sqkm as environmentally sensitive area (ESA) involving 1,499 villages in 39 taluks of 10 districts in the Western Ghats. People are apprehensive that their livelihoods will be affected if the entire area is protected. But that is not the case. If the law is enacted, it can be misused which is another apprehension. We had a detailed discussion with all the stakeholders -- panchayats, MLAs and CM. All MLAs rejected the report. It was suggested that of the 20,664 sqkm, around 16,100 sqkm is already protected, which is 83%. Right now, we have rejected it. The government of India may finalise the notification. Then we will have to go to SC.

What about leadership change in Karnataka?
There is no question of change in leadership and it is irrelevant. It is only being done to divert people's attention. Siddaramaiah and DK Shivakumar are giving a very good government. Opposition parties are jealous of the success of the Congress government. Unfortunately, the central government uses all sorts of things like IT, CBI and ED to threaten leaders. We will face them politically.

BJP is alleging that the government is using caste census for political gains. What do you have to say about it?
It was mentioned in our manifesto that a caste census will be done. In my opinion, the central government should have done it in the interest of social justice. Here, a socio-economic survey including educational status was conducted and recently the report was submitted to the government. No one knows what's in the report. A few communities are apprehensive that it may lead to injustice and that the survey is not done scientifically. But the CM has assured them that no injustice will be meted out to any community. The report is not yet implemented and we will discuss its pros and cons.

The BJP is also demanding internal reservation among Scheduled Castes...
First, BJP is against reservation. If they are so concerned, let them prevail on the central government to implement it. Many BJP leaders have openly opposed internal reservation. However, the SC has ruled that it has to be implemented by state governments. We have promised in our manifesto and we will take action after taking everyone into confidence.

War of words erupts after CM calls Joshi a 'terrorist'

AMIT S UPADHYE @ Hubballi

A war of words erupted after Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Sunday called Union Minister for Consumer Affairs and Dharwad MP Pralhad Joshi a terrorist.

Reacting to a question on Joshi's recent remarks that Congress supports terrorists, Siddaramaiah said Joshi himself is a terrorist. Joshi was reacting to withdrawal of cases against the accused in an incident of violence in Old Hubballiu in 2022.

Speaking at the Hubballi airport, Siddaramaiah said that a cabinet subcommittee has been formed to review such cases for withdrawal. "Such committees existed even during the BJP's tenure. The Hubballi riot case was deemed false and was withdrawn. But it is possible to withdraw a case only after presenting the decision before the court," he said. Siddaramaiah pointed out that cases against BJP members too have been withdrawn in a similar manner.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah prays at Sri Renuka Yellamma Kshetra, Yellamma Gudda, Savadatti, accompanied by Law Minister HK Patil, in Belagavi on Sunday

Reacting to the CM's statement, Joshi said Siddaramaiah has lost his mental balance and should be treated soon. "Siddaramaiah is saying all sorts of things as he is frustrated that he could lose power," Joshi alleged.

"The Mysore Urban Development Authority and Valmiki ST Development Corporation scams will ensure that Siddaramaiah will lose his chief minister's post. He is haunted by the nightmare of losing power and is frustrated," said Joshi.

"In politics, power comes and goes. In this desperation, the CM is making petty statements. In the MUDA scam, the Karnataka High Court has reprimanded the CM and he is unable to escape from it. On top of that, there is pressure on him to resign. Because of all these issues, Siddaramaiah has lost his mental balance," Joshi added.

"There are no NIA cases against RSS or Bajrang Dal. If officials had made mistakes in the past, so be it. Do politicians file cases then? Are you filing cases now," Joshi asked Siddaramiah.

Outrage after rowdy-sheeter sits near CM, DCM

ENS @ Mysuru

A rowdy-sheeter from Bagalkot, Prakash Mudhol, who was recently booked in connection with an extortion case, was seen seated among dignitaries at the Mysuru Dasara Jamboo Savari on Saturday. His presence at the August cultural event has caused a public uproar.

Mudhol was seen in the VIP section, alongside Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar, and ministers Dr HC Mahadevappa, Shivaraj Tangadagi, and Lakshmi Hebbalkar. His presence on the dais, in such esteemed company, has raised serious questions.

At the event, Mudhol was also seen reportedly taking a selfie with DCM Shivakumar and MLC Yathindra. This sparked further outrage, with people questioning how a person with a criminal background could be seated among state leaders.

Criticising the state government, BJP state president BY Vijayendra said, "Allowing a rowdy-sheeter with 11 criminal cases against him, to sit among dignitaries at the state's grand cultural event, Mysuru Dasara, has tarnished the sanctity of the festival."

In a post, he further condemned the incident, pointing out the irony of honouring individuals with a criminal background, while recent police cases involving miscreants were brushed aside.

He demanded that the government clarify what message it intends to send by allowing Mudhol to share the stage with the state's leaders.

HDK: Why Hubballi riot cases withdrawn?

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Davanagere

REFERRING to the state government's decision to withdraw cases pertaining to the riots in Hubballi, Union Minister for Steel and Heavy Industries HD Kumaraswamy on Sunday said the government should look into the depth of an incident, before deciding about withdrawing certain cases.

"The depth of the case should be understood first, before any cases are dropped. There are chances of criminals escaping punishment. The government itself is protecting criminals," alleged Kumaraswamy.

Further, he added that the Congress does not want the society to remain calm and peaceful, hence its government is taking such decisions.

On the state government spending Rs 17 crore on Dasara advertisements, he said with that kind of money, they could have developed a model village. "The state government is looting public money everywhere," he claimed.

Stating that the complaint against him is under investigation since 2012 by the SIT, he suggested that the Congress wants to keep the issue alive even after 10 years for wrong intentions.

Union minister HD Kumaraswamy at an event in Davanagere on Sunday

"Whatever I wish to say, will be told in court by my advocates. I spoke against the ADGP, who spoke on the issue of the governor," he said, adding that he will give his reply at a proper time.

He refused to react against Magadi MLA Balakrishna's allegations, saying that he will not respond to "vague statements".

He added that Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Social Welfare Minister Dr HC Mahadevappa made allegations against Balakrishna, but now they are all together.

Following the membership drive meeting at Davanagere, Kumaraswamy said, "We want to strengthen the JDS and make it formidable for the 2028 Assembly polls. In the Channapatna bypoll, the voters will vote for the NDA candidate."

Lahar: May be tactical move to seek CM's chair

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

RAHUL Kharge "clarified" that the entity is not a private or family-run trust and all the institutions under it are "not for profit". He pointed out that the trust has not requested or received any financial subsidy, reduced allotment rates or other financial support for setting up the proposed centres on the land. He said the cost of the CA site they had requested exceeded the cost of an industrial plot in the KIADB area. While SC/ST entrepreneurs receive a 50 per cent concession, no such rebate is available for CA sites even for the applicants from the trusts run by SC/ST community, he pointed out.

Rahul Kharge mentioned that the trust cannot function effectively while facing malafide, baseless and politically motivated allegations. "We do not wish to be drawn into controversies which will divert our attention and efforts from our primary objective of empowering the disempowered through education and social service," he said. In light of all these circumstances, they withdraw the proposal, he stated and requested the board to cancel the allotment. "The board may accept this as a voluntary surrender of the CA site as per Clause 8 of the allotment letter," he added.

BJP leader and Rajya Sabha member Lahar Singh Siroya posted on X that he felt vindicated. "The Kharge family has returned the 5-acre KIADB land illegally allotted to them. When I had raised this issue I was threatened and abused by Kharge Jr. and his cronies. Truth has prevailed. After all, this may be a tactical move to seek the CM's chair," he posted.

BJP members had slammed Kharge and his family members for getting the land at the prime location.

Ashoka slams Cong govt for dragging its feet on internal quota, caste census

ENS @ Bengaluru

ASSEMBLY Opposition Leader R Ashoka strongly criticised Congress for its inaction on internal reservations among Scheduled Castes, accusing the ruling party of dithering on a crucial issue that BJP had already set in motion with PM Narendra Modi's approval.

Ashoka laid into Congress leaders, like Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, pointing to their speeches about internal reservations and caste census, but refusing to act. "They blow their own trumpets about the caste census, yet they can't even deliver on critical issues like internal reservations," he said. "The Supreme Court has given state governments the power to implement it, and the BJP government has already taken this forward. Why is Congress dragging its feet," he asked.

Ashoka slammed the Congress government for its obsession with Special Investigation Teams (SITs). "All we see are SITs, which are another delaying tactic. They might as well form an SIT to investigate their own failures on internal reservations and the caste census. It's gotten so bad that we need an SIT to investigate SITs," he said. "Look at how BJP MLA Munirathna is treated versus Congress MLA Vinay Kulkarni," he said.

He accused Congress of looting the Mysore Urban Development Authority and Valmiki Development Corporation, where they have "pocketed huge amounts of money".

The recent EnviStats India 2024 survey stated that Andhra Pradesh is home to around 569 leopards, with the total leopard population in India being 13,874. Of these, 360 reside in the Nagarjuna Sagar-Srisailam Tiger Reserve, the highest among the 55 tiger reserves in the country

Hindutva activists felicitate Parasuram Waghmore and Manohar Yadawe, the accused in the Gauri Lankesh murder case, in Vijayapura on Saturday | EXPRESS

Gauri Lankesh case accused felicitated in Vijayapura

FIROZ ROZINDAR @Vijayapura

TWO persons, accused in the murder of journalist Gauri Lankesh -- who were released on bail recently, were welcomed and honoured by leaders of Hindutva organisations here on Saturday evening.

The accused, Parasuram Waghmore and Manohar Yadawe, participated in a religious ritual at Kalikadevi temple and performed a puja to the statue of Chhatrapati Shivaji before garlanding it at Shivaji Circle.

Hindutva activists shouted "Bharat Mata Ki Jai" and expressed support to Sanatan Dharma.

The group's leader Umesh Vandal honoured the two accused with shawls and garlands. The video of the two accused being honoured has gone viral on social media sites.

Sriram Sene leader Neelkantha Kandagal claimed that innocent people have been unjustly sentenced to seven years in prison for Gauri Lankesh's murder.

He said the accused were not involved in the crime and alleged that the Congress government is targeting only Hindu activists.

The accused refused to talk to media persons who were present at the spot.

Recently, a sessions court in Bengaluru granted bail to eight accused involved in the Gauri Lankesh murder case. Bail was granted to Amol Kale, Rajesh D Bangera, Vasudev Suryawanshi, Rushikesh Devadekar, Parshuram Waghmore, Ganesh Miskin, Amit Baddi and Manohar Yadawe

The Karnataka High Court had granted bail to four accused in the case on September 4. They were Bharat Kurane, Srikanth Pangarkar, Sujith Kumar and Sudhanwa Gondhalekar.

Gauri Lankesh, who was the editor of Lankesh Patrike newspaper, was shot dead by two men on a motorcycle on the night of September 5, 2017 outside her house in Rajarajeshwarinagar in Bengaluru.

The then Congress government had set up a Special Investigation Team (SIT) to probe the case. The SIT had identified 18 accused, including the alleged mastermind Amol Kale, shooter Parashuram Waghmare and Ganesh Miskin, who rode the motorcycle. The accused were booked under various provisions of the Indian Penal Code, Arms Act and Karnataka Control of Organised Crime Act.

CMRL pay-off case: SFIO grills Pinarayi's daughter

UDF, BJP accuse each other of nexus with CPM, call it election stunt

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Kochi

VEENA Vijayan, the daughter of Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, was reportedly questioned by the Serious Fraud Investigation Office (SFIO) in Chennai recently as part of the latter's investigation into the alleged kickbacks her IT firm Exalogic Solutions received from the Cochin Minerals and Rutile Ltd (CMRL).

Soon after the news broke the Congress-led UDF alleged a "deal" between the CPM and BJP ahead of the bypolls in Kerala, while the BJP claimed the case exposed the LDF-UDF nexus in the state.

Veena appeared before the SFIO last Wednesday, for the second time. She had earlier appeared before the SFIO, which comes under the Ministry of Corporate Affairs, following the Karnataka High Court's refusal to stay the investigation in February. This was shortly after the Centre ordered the SFIO probe into the affairs of Exalogic as well as CMRL and Kerala State Infrastructure Development Corporation.

Responding to the development, Leader of Opposition V D Satheesan said the questioning was an election stunt, as announcement for the bypoll is expected on Monday.

"It is an attempt to mislead the public into believing that the CPM and BJP are fighting face-to-face in the state. We saw it in the case of Thrissur Lok Sabha seat and in the Karuvannur issue," he said, emphasising that the CPM and BJP could not hide the nexus.

Satheesan also said even if Veena was questioned, it was part of the procedure. "Even if she was questioned by the SFIO, it is part of the investigation. They are repeating whatever they did in the last election. We don't take it seriously and know that no investigation will be conducted by central agencies against Pinarayi Vijayan or the CPM," he alleged.

Meanwhile, BJP state president K Surendran said the real face of the LDF and UDF had been exposed through the case.

"Satheesan has been alleging a deal between CPM and BJP. He should clarify. Congress and League leaders received the amount from Karimanal Kartha (Sashidharan Kartha, the CMRL MD). The leader of Opposition should clear his stand in this matter too," Surendran said, adding that the only party that has not received any amount from Kartha is the BJP. He also criticised the UDF for its inaction during the investigation, stating that while the BJP actively pursued the case through central agencies, UDF leaders remained mere spectators. On the status of the Karuvannur cooperative bank corruption case, Surendran said the investigating agencies are trying to return the money to the investors.

LITTLE SCRIBBLES

A child is all smiles as a priest at Chottanikkara Bhagavathi Temple initiates him to the world of learning during Vidyarambham on Sunday. Vidyarambham is a traditional Hindu ceremony held on Vijayadashami, the final day of Navaratri | A SANESH

TN man falls off train at Kozhikode, police suspect murder

Kozhikode:A native of Kanchipuram, Tamil Nadu, died after falling from Mangaluru-Kochuveli special express when it reached Kozhikode railway station on Saturday at 11.30pm. The deceased has been identified as Sharavanan Gopi alias Akash, 27. Police suspect that Sharavanan was pushed down from the train. A native of Kannur has been taken into police custody in connection with the case. As per the first information that has come out, Sharavanan, who was sitting at the door of the AC compartment, fell down immediately after the train started moving from Kozhikode station. The passengers pulled the chain and stopped the train. Sharavanan was stuck between the train and the platform.

NEWBIE

New genus of jumping spider found

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Tumakuru

A new species of spider, discovered at the origin of Jayamangali river at Devarayanadurga reserve forest near here, has now been recognised as a new genus by arachnologists.

'Tenkana jayamangali' has been added as a new genus of Tenkana jumping spiders (Salticidae, Plexippina) from South Asia, claimed researchers Kiran Marathe, John TD Caleb and Wayne P Maddison. In a scientific paper, prepared along with environmental enthusiasts Krushnamegh Kunte, BG Nisha and Chinmay C Maliye, the last two also being software engineers, and YT Lohit, working with WWF, they claimed that the 'Tenkana' is a new genus to contain two species of 'manu' group currently places with 'colopsus'.

Nisha, Chinmay and Lohit had discovered the male and female jumping spiders and sent the specimen to study their DNA which did not match with any other species that led to the discovery of the new genus 'Tenkana'. The paper published in the journal 'Zookeys' on October 11, details the new genus as the phylogenies recover Tenkana jayamangali as a sister species to T arkavathi and T manu. The males of T jayamangali, pale hairs occupy most of carapace surface area leaving small bald patch posteriorly, while in T arkavathi and T manu, pale hairs are gentler on carapace forming narrower bands on carapace laterally, tapering posteriorly. Ocular area of T jayamangali is covered with white hairs uniformly, while T arkavathi has distinctive V-shaped bands and T manu has bald ocular area.

Tenkana jayamangali, the new genus of jumping spider | EXPRESS

SP: 107 tourist deaths in U-K dist in 5 years

SUBHASH CHANDRA N S @Karwar (Uttara Kannada)

MORE than hundred tourists have died at tourism spots, mainly in Uttara Kannada, in the last five years. This has been mentioned by Superintendent of Police (SP) Uttara Kannada in a letter to the Deputy Commissioner of district.

In the wake of frequent incidents of tourists either drowning or being rescued from drowning, the SP, M Narayan has shot off the letter to the DC seeking convene a meeting of the police and tourism authorities.

In his letter dated October 9, 2024, Narayan urged the DC, Lakshmi Priya, to initiate action to ensure safety of the tourists. "There are many places of tourism in Uttara Kannada. People from within the district as well as from outside travel to these places. Many mishaps keep happening, particularly at spots which have water front," the SP said in the letter.

He points out that between 2019 and 2024, tourists from various parts had visited the district where 107 lives have been lost until now. "Most of the mishaps happen when the tourists get into water here have died due to drowning," he said.

Accordingly, 12 persons have died in the year 2019, 15 persons have died in 2020, 26 in 202₹1, 20 in 2022, 22 persons have died in the year 2023 and so far, 12 lives have been lost in 2024.

The house near Hoode in Udupi where the Bangladeshis resided illegally

Locals helped illegal B'deshis in Udupi

PRAKASH SAMAGA @Udupi

FOLLOWING the recent arrest of eight Bangladeshis, who were illegally staying at a house near Hoode in Udupi district, the district police have started an intense investigation into the incident.

Police officials told TNIE that the arrested Bangladeshis entered India with the help of agents from the North-East. They entered India at different times, and had indulged in construction activities. They offered namaz at nearby mosques and local residents patronised them, the sources said.

"It has become easy for illegal immigrants to settle down as it is not mandatory to submit rental agreement and work contract copies to the jurisdictional police stations. There are many Bangladeshis residing illegally in Udupi and Mangaluru," the source added.

The eight Bangladeshis stayed in a two-BHK house provided by Asif, who is engaged in water sports activities. In one of the rooms, Asif kept items related to his water sports activities, while the eight others stayed in the other room. The investigating team found out that the immigrants got Asif's reference from people in Mangaluru and Chennai. Asif did not collect any documents or rent from them.

Highly placed sources said the arrested Bangladeshis belonged to a sect called 'Ahl-i-Hadith' and were followers of 'Wahhabism', an extremist ideology. The police have also detained Asif for questioning. Udupi SP Dr Arun K said the arrested Bangladeshis will be taken into police custody on Monday. "They are all in judicial custody now," he added.

The police are mainly focusing on how big and deep the network of accommodating illegal immigrants in coastal Karnataka is, and are also investigating how the illegal immigrants got fake Aadhaar cards printed in Udupi.

NDA CAUGHT IN YOGESHWARA CONUNDRUM IN CHANNAPATNA

DEVARAJ B HIREHALLI @Bengaluru

FORMER minister and BJP MLC CP Yogeshwara has turned out to be a double-edged sword for both BJP and JDS as they cannot ignore him in the Channapatna bypoll, for which the Election Commission is expected to announce the date soon.

Even as Union Minister HD Kumaraswamy refused to accept Yogeshwara as the NDA candidate, the actor-turned-politician has continued to organise BJP workers to mount pressure on the BJP high command.

Assembly Opposition Leader R Ashoka said on Sunday, "We have already told the NDA leadership that it will be good if Yogeshwara is the NDA candidate. We also spoke to Kumaraswamy as his decision is the key. The Central Parliamentary Board that also includes our ally JDS will take the final decision. Once the bypoll is declared, we will meet central leaders and appeal to them to make Yogeshwara the candidate."

As it will be difficult to convince Yogeshwar not to contest as an independent, the BJP central leadership and former PM HD Deve Gowda are likely to intervene, sources said. The Ramanagara district BJP unit too has backed Yogeshwara. A district leader Prasad Gowda said Yogeshwara has won the hearts of Channapatna people by creating a revolution in irrigation. If Yogeshwara is fielded, it will help the party grow in the region, he added.

It is still not known if local BJP leaders would support the JDS candidate if Yogeshwara is not given the ticket, an analyst said. But Kumaraswamy, who wants JDS to remain a force in the region, is not ready to give up. He has clarified that there was no agreement on vacating the Channapatna seat before he contested the Mandya Lok Sabha seat. Both Kumaraswamy and his son Nikhil have already started preparations. On Saturday, they held another round of meeting with key leaders at their Bidadi guesthouse.

DKS: None from my family will contest bypoll

MYSURU: Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar on Sunday said no one from his family will contest the bypoll for the Channapatna Assembly constituency. Speaking to the media here, he further clarified that the Congress is preparing the ground for the polls. The Grand Old Party had lost by a lesser margin in the general election, and it was substantially more in the Assembly polls. "We are strengthening our base, and we hope that the people will support us in the election that will be fought on ideology and programmes, and not on personality," he stated. Asked about JDS leader and Union minister HD Kumaraswamy's son Nikhil Kumaraswamy contesting the polls, Shivakumar said they are not worried about who the candidates would be, adding that the Congress is just getting ready to clinch the seat.

Mysuru royals deny delaying Dasara event

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Mysuru

AMID reports and claims that the delay of Pushparchane was due to the delay in handing over of the Ambari, royal family member Pramoda Devi Wadiyar on Sunday refuted the allegation and clarified that the Ambari was handed over to the designated personnel shortly after 2 pm, and the same was duly acknowledged. "Attributing the delay to the late transfer of the Ambari is an irresponsible statement," she said.

Pramoda clarified that the delay, according to her, stemmed from issues related to crowd management and blocked access to the designated area. "A few government vehicles, including a private bus transporting government guests, hindered the movement of staff responsible for hoisting the Ambari onto the elephant," she stated.

Despite their best efforts to ensure the smooth execution of the event, these unforeseen circumstances led to the setback. Pramoda expressed hope that such issues would be addressed in the future to avoid any further misunderstandings.

EXPRESS READ

Two arrested for raping 16-yr-old

Kasaragod: The Ambalathara police on Saturday booked two individuals under Pocso charges for sexually abusing a 16-year-old girl. The rape incident came to light on Friday when the girl's parents took her to a hospital after she complained of severe stomach ache. In the examination, it was revealed that the girl was pregnant. "Upon questioning, the girl revealed that she was raped by two men on different occasions. She was first raped by a 63-year-old man and later, a 51-year-old man, who used to help the girl's family financially."

70 injured in stampede at 'Banni'

Kurnool: At least 70 people were injured during a stampede at the traditional Banni stick fight held at Devaragattu hills near the Sri Malamalleswara Swamy temple in Holagunda mandal of Kurnool district, on Saturday night. Of the injured, six were severely hurt and were shifted to Adoni Area Government Hospital for treatment. This year's Banni festival held near Neraniki village, attracted nearly 4,00,000 people from Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, and Telangana.

Government of India
Ministry of Education
National Institutional Ranking Framework

nirf

INDIA RANKINGS 2025

The National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) was launched in 2015 to rank higher educational institutions in the country based on objective criteria to promote competitive excellence in higher educational institutions. NIRF now invites applications for India Rankings 2025, the tenth edition of this annual exercise.

NIRF has introduced a new category namely Sustainable Development Goals (SDG). Institutions willing to participate may register under SDG Category.

All the institutions which have participated in the previous India Rankings exercise have been pre-registered. A mail in this regard has already been sent to the Heads of the respective institutions to confirm institution details for India Rankings 2025.

In case, your institution is not pre-registered in the above manner, and wishes to participate in India Rankings 2025, you are requested to visit our website i.e. www.nirfindia.org, and register your institution by clicking the registration button. In case of any query, contact National Board of Accreditation at helpdesk@nirfindia.org or call at 011-40159583/87/89.

Registrations will open from 14th October 2024.

CBC 21315/12/0002/2425

Member Secretary

EDITORIAL

It is not enough to unearth the truth, it also has to be broadcast, and nobody should get away with pretending it isn't there

Koenraad Elst

INDIAN EXPRESS IS NOT AN INDUSTRY. IT IS A MISSION.

— Ramnath Goenka

NETA'S SHOCKING SUPARI MURDER SHOWS POOR LAW ENFORCEMENT

THE shocking mafia-style hit job of a powerful ruling party neta in Mumbai revived concerns over the law and order situation in the Maximum City ahead of assembly polls in Maharashtra. For almost five decades, Baba Siddique remained a prominent member of the Congress and rose to become its Muslim face before switching to the NCP after the opportunistic Ajit Pawar split the party. The three-term legislator and former minister was a master in political survival till he ran out of luck, as he managed a Congress ticket for son Zeeshan from the Bandra East assembly constituency and got him elected, giving him the convenience of sailing on two boats. His legendary iftar parties drew Hindi cinema's A-listers and helped the famous Khans—Salman and Shah Rukh—break ice over a decade ago. For reasons the investigators are yet to fully establish, Salman's enemy possibly became Siddique's as well, as the Lawrence Bishnoi gang angle is being probed in the supari hit. Bishnoi, who is in a Gujarat jail, terrorised Salman for allegedly poaching blackbucks in Rajasthan in 1998. Three hired guns of the gang pumped bullets into Siddiqui as he was getting into his car outside Zeeshan's office in Bandra. That he was bumped off despite his Y-plus security cover showed the impunity of the gang. Early reports suggested the murder was tied to some controversy over slum redevelopment projects in Zeeshan's constituency.

The killing came at the worst time for the ruling alliance in the state as it is struggling to deal with perception issues—from the legitimacy of the coalition arrangement to governance and beyond. Vertical splits in the Shiv Sena and the NCP to snatch power in alliance with the BJP raised questions of ethics that will be decided at the hustings in a few weeks. Besides, their seat-sharing deal is far from sorted. Just a few months ago, the opposition gave them a bloody nose in the Lok Sabha elections.

Since managing law and order is part of the home portfolio held by Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, he is directly under the line of fire. Another NCP leader was stabbed in Mumbai recently. Ironically, the bloodletting happened on the Vijayadashami day, which celebrates the triumph of good over evil, while the reverse happened in Bandra. Justice must be rendered quickly to restore people's faith in the rule of law.

CHENNAI AIRSHOW DEATHS SHOW ORGANISERS' FAILURE

OCTOBER 6, 2024 was a memorable day but not in the way the Tamil Nadu government and the Indian Air Force may have intended it to be. The day the IAF showed off its prowess with a magnificent airshow, the first in Chennai in 21 years, might now go down in the books as a tragic day on which five people died as a result of gross mismanagement by the authorities. Having called for 15 lakh people to gather on the Marina beach in a bid to break records, the authorities could not manage the crowds and ensure their safety on multiple levels.

The state failed to execute a plan for the gathered masses to safely exit the venue, to organise sufficient water at the venue, and ensure public transport services were increased to meet the expected demand. Instead, people who had gathered to watch the airshow from 11am to 1pm on a sultry Sunday marked by high humidity were left to find their way to bus stops and metro and suburban rail stations without any guidance in the form of signage or over a public address system about which exit routes to take. Lakhs of people tried to move towards the nearest stations en masse resulting in massive bottlenecks and a stampede-like situation. Metro and suburban stations were overrun as services were run on a Sunday pattern rather than to meet the high expected demand. The frequency of Metro services on one line was only increased an hour after the event had ended. In the chaos, five people lost their lives and many others were hospitalised after fainting. Worse, ambulance services were unable to rush the affected to the three major hospitals just a few kilometres away as they became marooned in the crowd.

The Tamil Nadu government announced a solatium for the kin of the deceased and said it would ensure better arrangements were made in the future. This is a promise it can keep only if the lapses on the part of several key departments are analysed and meaningful action is taken against those responsible in a transparent manner as the trust of the public is easily lost, yet hard to regain.

QUICK TAKE

PROTECT BLUE HELMETS

OF all the brazen acts Israel has committed over the past year in contravention of international laws, its attacks on UN peacekeepers is one of the most appalling. The UN Interim Peacekeeping Force in Lebanon or Unifil is a group of more than 10,000 civilian and military personnel from more than 30 countries—including India—tasked with keeping Lebanon's southern border with Israel safe. Last week, Israel rattled a gate and a tower at Unifil locations and injured two peacekeepers. The Indian mission in Lebanon has already spoken out against it. This is the moment for the global community to unequivocally condemn such acts and ensure that Israel does not repeat them.

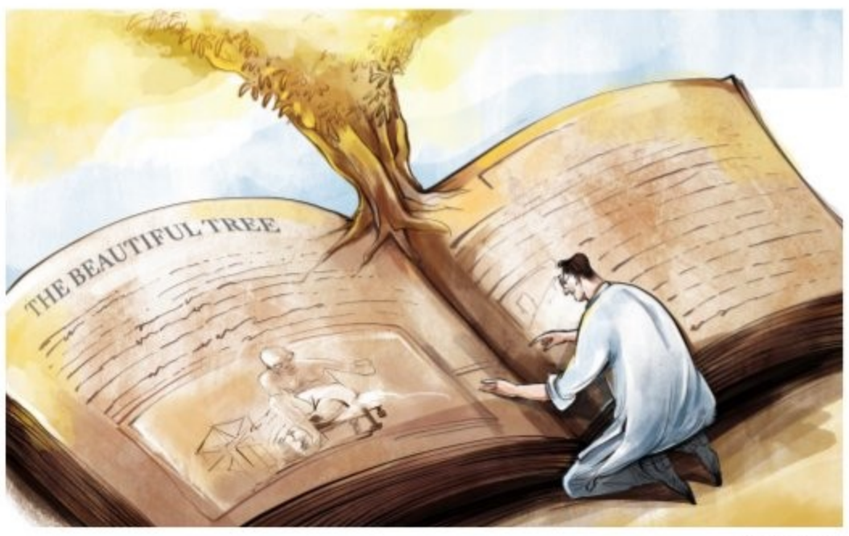
Dharampal's work has enjoyed a revival after being neglected for decades, largely due to the efforts of his admirers. Re-reading them is crucial to understanding modern India

REMEMBERING A GREAT GANDHIAN SCHOLAR IN INDIA

MAKARAND R PARANJAPE

Author and commentator

RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE



MANDAR PARDIKAR

ON October 24, friends and admirers of Gandhian scholar and thinker Dharampal will commemorate the 18th anniversary of his passing. To offer a glimpse of just how significant his contribution to post-independence Indian intellectual life was, we might refer to his most widely read and acclaimed book, *The Beautiful Tree* (1983).

The title came for an almost-forgotten speech by Mahatma Gandhi on October 20, 1931. Speaking at a Chatham House meeting at the Royal Institute of International Affairs, Gandhi made the startling claim that illiteracy had increased under British colonial rule: "Today, India is more illiterate than it was 50 or a 100 years ago…because the British administrators, when they came to India, instead of taking hold of things as they were, began to root them out…and the beautiful tree perished (*Collected Works of Mahatma Gandhi* vol 54: p 59)".

Gandhi, when challenged by Sir Philip Hartog who met him on December 2, 1931, admitted that more evidence was needed to back his assertion. Decades later, Dharampal rose to the occasion by defending Gandhi's claim and the honour of India.

The story of post-independence India's intellectual decolonisation hasn't been fully told. Especially the part played by a few outstanding intellectuals, and the critical role played by visionary scholar-researchers like Dharampal from outside colleges and universities, without support from government agencies or the establishment. Born in 1922 in Kandhla, a small town in western Uttar Pradesh's Muzaffarnagar district, Dharampal abandoned his studies to join Gandhi's Satyagraha in 1940. During the Quit India movement, he was also arrested for a short while. When almost the entire Congress leadership remained imprisoned, he was active after his release among the younger, more radical members of the Congress socialists including Jayaprakash Narayan, Ram Manohar Lohia, Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay, and Aruna Asaf Ali.

In addition, working closely with other Gandhians like Mirabehn (Madeleine Slade, a British admiral's daughter), he learned about India, following Gandhian principles from the grassroots up. After independence, in 1949, he planned to spend some time studying the Kibbutzim system in Israel. But, having to reroute his journey through England, a chance meeting in the Devonshire countryside changed the course of his life. In September 1949, he met Phyllis Ellen Ford. Soon they were married.

Dharampal's work has enjoyed a revival after being neglected for decades. This is largely due to the untiring efforts of several of his admirers, including Claude Alvares and members of the Patriotic and People-oriented Science & Technology collective. Over 20 years back, Alvares published the *Collected Works of Dharampal* from his Other India Press in Goa. In 2007, Bhawarlal Jain, the head of the large corporate house Jain Irrigation, started the Gandhi Research Foundation in Jalgaon. It created a digital repository of all of Dharampal's works.

Several senior members of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), especially Suresh Soni, also urged the republication of his collected works, already published in Gujarati (2005) and Hindi (2007) translations edited by Indumati Katdare of the Punarutthan Trust, Ahmedabad. In 2021, Jitendra Bajaj and M D Srinivas of the Centre for Policy Studies, Chennai, brought out a slightly different version of Alvares's original five-volume set, co-published with an RSS affiliate, Rashtrotthana Sahitya. The mainstreaming of Dharampal, with more than adequate government patronage, may thus have been accomplished. But this does not mean a serious engagement with his work has been undertaken.

Rereading Dharampal is crucial to understanding modern India because Dharampal was a Gandhian with a difference. Not a doctrinaire or a political Gandhian, but a Gandhian who understood and articulated the dynamics of Indian society from the perspective of ordinary people. He called it, quite eloquently, *Bharatiya Chitta, Manas, aur Kala* (1993) in the Hindi original, which Jitendra Bajaj retained in his English translation of the book. We might render it as India's Psyche, Mind, and Cosmos, or Indian Consciousness, Intellect, and Time, though neither would be entirely accurate or evocative. The book offers a blueprint for the decolonisation of the Indian mind.

Dharampal's fundamental theme is Indian society at large thinks, feels, and acts quite differently from the Western world and India's own westernised elites. So colonised are the latter that, even after Independence, they still remain alienated from the masses and continue to obstruct India's attainment of swaraj or selfhood. This is a truth that Gandhi recognised very clearly in his seminal work Hind Swaraj (1909). His belief was confirmed on his return to India from South Africa in January 1915, when he toured the length and breadth of the land, trying to identify with the true spirit of its people.

Colonisation was so destructive and traumatic precisely because it ruined and despoiled India's traditional society that had, in large measure, managed by the early 18th century to recover from centuries of Muslim rule. The Partition and its horrifying bloodletting notwithstanding, Dharampal, till the last phase of his life, continued to believe, like Gandhi, that the primary adversary of Hindu society was Western modernity, not its internal Muslim minority.

The Muslim threat, both external and internal, did not excite or exercise him much. But after the Babri Masjid was demolished on December 6, 1992, Dharampal came out on the side of those who wished to reclaim the site as Sri Rama's birthplace. He wrote about this in *Ayodhya and the Future of India* (1993), edited, once again, by Jitendra Bajaj. He thus endured the risk of breaking ranks with several of his Gandhian and secular friends.

The best introduction to his work is the excellent one-volume reader, *The Essential Dharampal* (Publications Division, 2015) compiled and edited by Gita Dharampal, his daughter and distinguished historian. Its Hindi and Tamil editions are expected shortly. It is hoped they will enable a more serious engagement with his profound and transformative ideas. Indian society, which he studied and served so diligently, owes at least this much to Dharampal.

(The author would like to thank Gita Dharampal for her comments on the longer version of this essay.)

(Views are personal)

(Tweets @MakrandParanspe)

KAMAKSHI TEMPLE IN THE SOUTH INDIAN SALVATION CITY

RENUKA NARAYANAN

FAITHLINE

WITH the Sharad Navaratri festival in honour of the Devi just over, I found I was thinking a lot about Kamakshi Devi in Kanchipuram and would like to share some interesting facts as a follow-up to the festival.

According to Indian metaphysics, Kanchipuram to the Northeast of Chennai, about an hour's drive from the city, is the sole '*mokshapuri*' or 'salvation city' in South India. The other six are well north of the old boundary between the north and the south, the holy river Narmada.

To set the larger picture, the Indian subcontinent is called *Bharatavarshe Jambudvipe*, 'the land of the Bharatas, the island of the rose-apple', further detailed as *Aa Setu Himalaya*, meaning 'from the southernmost seas to the northernmost mountains'. The seven *mokshapuri* or salvation cities identified across it in ancient times still rule the Hindu world—Kashi or Varanasi, Avantika or Ujjain, Ayodhya, Haridwar, Mathura, Dwaraka and Kanchipuram.

The ancient Pallava capital, Kanchipuram, was even older than the Pallava dynasty. It was mentioned as far back as 300 BCE by Panini, the Sanskrit grammarian, and eulogised in the Tamil Sangam or academy era epics of the second century CE in the *Silappadikaram*, written by the Jain prince Ilango Adigal and in its sequel, *Manimekhalai*, written by his Buddhist friend, the merchant, poet and critic Shattan.

No less than Mahakavi Kalidasa, the renowned Sanskrit poet of the fourth century CE in Ujjain, had praised Kanchipuram. His Sanskrit encomium once known all over India goes: '*pushpeshu jaati, purusheshu Vishnu, nareeshu Rambha, nagareeshu Kanchi*', meaning 'the best among flowers is the *parijat* or 'night-flowering jasmine'; among men, it is Vishnu; among women, the apsara Rambha; among cities, Kanchi'. So, the northern region of present-day Tamil Nadu had been culturally celebrated since very old days, with Kanchipuram, Mahabalipuram, Sriperumbudur and important sites like Kartikeya's historic ancient temple in Tiruttani as the pearls in its diadem.

In this salvation city, the Kamakshi temple, dated variously to the Pallavas and the Cholas, is the physical and cultural hub, and the only space focused on the Ambal or Devi, the sacred feminine energy. It is one point of a Shakti energy-triangle encapsulated in the local prayer-phrase 'Kanchi Kamakshi, Madurai Meenakshi, Kashi Visalakshi'.

This ancient monument lives on through this concept of sacred geography at 'the court of the love-eyed goddess' (Kamakshi) and its animating principles of '*mokshapuri*' (salvation city), '*shakti sthalam*' (space/sanctuary of the goddess) and '*ghatika sthanam*' (seat of learning). The role of Adi Sankara in its importance is evidenced by the Sri Chakra or Shakti Yantra, the mystic mandala at the feet of the goddess that he is held to have installed.

WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

> In the salvation city of Kanchipuram, the Kamakshi temple, dated variously to the Pallavas and the Cholas, is the physical and cultural hub and the only space focused on the Ambal or Devi, the sacred feminine energy

The role of the Shankaracharyas of the Kamakoti Peetham has been immense in sustaining the temple's activities. The beautiful layout and architecture are testimony to the love and care invested in the temple down the ages by devotees.

Paeans like the *Panchasati* by Muka Kavi of legend testify to the energy zone of the Kamakshi temple. Muka Kavi is said to have lived in the fifth century in Kanchipuram. He was dumb from birth. He used to go to the Kamakshi temple and prostrate before the goddess every day and do *kainkaryam* (odd jobs of service in the temple).

One day, he suddenly started composing poems. He wrote 500 verses in praise of Sri Kamakshi in five *satakas*. *Sataka* means '100 verses'. In the first *sataka*, known as Arya Sataka, he says: *Siva, Siva Pasyanti Samam/ Sree Kamakshi Katakshitah Purushah/Vipinam Bhavanamimitram, Mitram/ Loshtam cha Yuvathi Bimoshtam* (Great men, blessed by the *kataksha* or benevolent gaze of Kamakshi, regard with equal unconcern forest and palace, foe and friend, a piece of stone and the captivating lips of damsels. What a wonder, Siva, Siva).

This verse was made famous by the 68th Shankaracharya of Kanchipuram, Sri Chandrasekharendra Saraswati (1894-1994). In a talk he gave, he said, "In this verse, the poet indicates the test by which we can find out whether a person has been purified by the benevolent look of the Divine Mother or not. If he has received the grace of the Mother, he will be free from anger, enmity, desire and fear, and such a man will be attracted by nothing, desire nothing, hate nothing and fear nothing. God alone can work this miracle of ridding us of all passions."

In the 20th century, Lakshmikant Sharma wrote the *Kamakshi Suprabhatam*, the recording of which is played at dawn in the temple. He was asked to compose it as a wake-up song for the Devi by Sri Chandrasekharendra Saraswati. The result was so beautiful that it became part of the temple's daily ritual, especially after M S Subbulakshmi rendered it in a melodious chant. It is easily found on YouTube. This *suprabhatam* is perfect in its emotional logic.

In the well-known *Venkatesha Suprabhatam* addressed to the Lord at Tirupati, the refrain is '*tava suprabhatam*' meaning 'good morning to you'. In the *Kamakshi Suprabhatam*, the words go '*kuru suprabhatam*', meaning 'give us a good day', demonstrating the mother-child relationship we have with the Devi, demanding from her by right.

Since Southern cinema has a whole genre of films on the theme of *bhakti* or devotion, it was inevitable that Kanchi Kamakshi too had a film made on her. *Sri Kanchi Kamatchi*, a 1978 Tamil film starring Gemini Ganeshan, begins by introducing a character called Meenakshimaindan and through him, retells some of the miraculous doings of Kanchi Kamakshi on behalf of her devotees. This too is available on YouTube.

(Views are personal)

(shebaba09@gmail.com)

MAILBAG

WRITE TO: letters@newindianexpress.com

GoP's resurrection?

Ref: *Congress needs Sonia, not Rahul alone* (Oct 13). While there is no disputing the fact that the Congress won successive elections under Sonia Gandhi, its fortunes have been plummeting ever since. Sonia, Rahul and Priyanka might still be calling the shots in the Congress but in isolation, they cannot ensure a resurrection for the party.

C V Aravind, Bengaluru

Palliative care

Ref: *Why we must focus on palliative care* (Oct 13). Palliative care in India is still limited. Millions of patients need palliative care that would help them live actively and relieve them from severe pain. Less than 3 percent of cancer patients in India have access to adequate pain relief.

P Victor Selvaraj, Palayamkottai

Medicine availability

Practically speaking, there is no disease for which medicines are not available in this part of the world. But it is important that they are within the reach of the common man. Also, doctors should be kind to the latter. This will do a world of good to patients' confidence level and help them recover quickly.

S Ramakrishnasayee, Chennai

Maharashtra polls

Ref: *Maha battle maha hopes, maha promises* (Oct 13). A real maha battle awaits both Maha Yuti and MVA in Maharashtra. Everyone talks about the Haryana results. They also have a feeling that the big-brother attitude of Congress paved the way for BJP's victory. At the same time, the situation is different in Maharashtra. The MVA are equal partners to a certain extent. If they have to recreate the victory they got in the Lok Sabha polls, they need to stick together.

K Ganesh, Coimbatore

Barbaric murder

Ref: *NCP leader Baba Siddique shot dead in Mumbai; 2 held* (Oct 13). The cold-blooded murder of Baba Siddique by unidentified assailants at his son's office is an utterly barbaric and unpardonable act. If such crimes go on unabated, the peaceful life of citizens will become a pipe dream.

R Pichumani, Kumbakonam

Name-changing authority

Ref: *Claiming right to define where one can't create* (Oct 13). In all countries, attempts have been made by the ruling dispensation to re-depict history to serve its vested interests. It seems renaming of cities has reached an all-time high in India. Whether governments with five-year mandates have the authority to do so is a matter to be debated.

P R V Raja, Pandalam

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POSTS OF THE DAY

Rajeev Chandrasekhar @RajeevRC_X
Congress family opposed Ram Mandir for decades, it has alliances with parties that abuse Hindu faith daily and show up grinning at Ram Leela program

D Raja @ ComradeDRaja
The untimely demise of Prof. GN Saibaba is the result of years of illegal incarceration, denial of medical treatment to a 90% disabled person.

Yogendra Yadav @_YogendraYadav
If Election Commission can allow Ram Rahim to come out on parole just 2 days before polls, it can do anything. In such case, we have to reach every booth.

Railways grapples with 'sabotage' attempts

Nearly 24 derailment bids by placing objects on tracks were reported in the last few months, say officials

RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR @New Delhi

INDIAN Railways is facing a challenge as there have been multiple attempts to derail trains since June this year, though in most cases alert locomotive crews prevented derailments. In some cases, coaches jumped tracks.

Probes by railway officials have revealed suspected sabotages to cause derailments. In most cases, objects have been placed on railway tracks.

On October 11, Mysuru-Darbhanga Bagmati Express collided with a stationary goods train at Kavaraippettai station in Chennai rail division, causing injuries to nine passengers. A three-member of senior railway officials raised serious apprehension of sabotage after inspecting the accident site, sources said. An NIA team also visited the spot for investigation. On Sunday, an alert loco pilot spotted a gas cylinder on Roorkee-Luxor railway tracks in Uttarakhand and prevented a possible derailment. "The gas cylinder was empty but it could have caused problem to a running train," an railway official said. Two coaches of an empty local train derailed on in Mumbai on Sunday also, affecting suburban services.

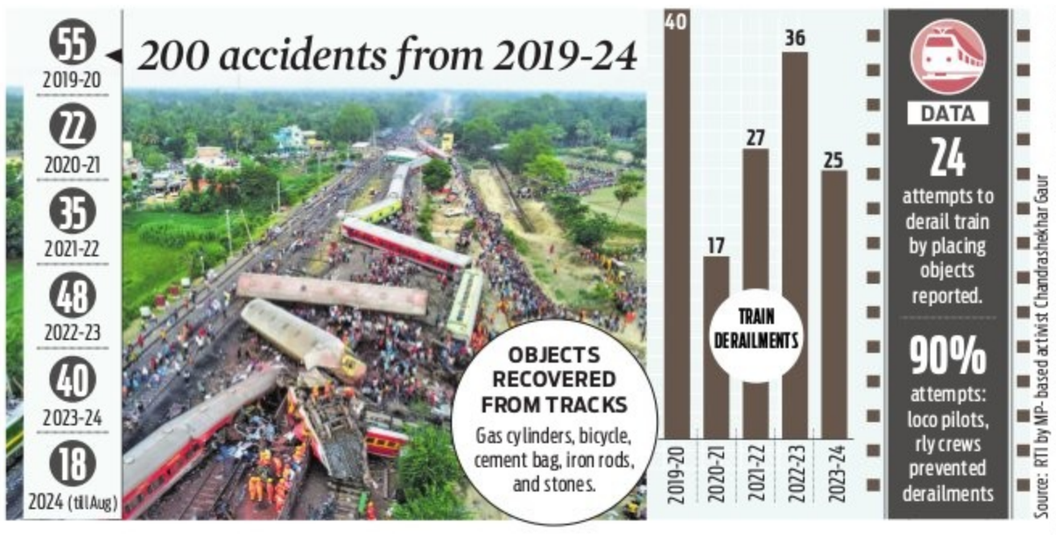
On September 19, a seven-foot-long iron rod was spotted on tracks between Bilaspur road and Rudrapur before the Doon Express was to ply. An alert loco pilot spotted it and applied an emergency break to halt the train, which prevented derailment, officials said.

On September 21, the fishplates, which keep the tracks connected with ground supports, were found removed near Surat in Gujarat before Bandra Garib Rath was to passing there. Its timely detection prevented an accident, officials said. On September 22, the loco pilot of a goods train spotted a gas cylinder placed on the tracks near Prempur railway station in Kanpur and prevented a possible derailment.

On September 28, a big boulder was found placed on the tracks near Balia in UP ahead of the movement of Lucknow-Chhapra Express. On the same day, a big stone was placed on the tracks on Jhansi-Manikpur section near Mahoba in UP before the movement of Jhansi-Prayagraj passenger train. The railway and local police arrested a youth in connection with the case, officials said.

According to railway sources, nearly 24 attempts of causing derailments by placing objects, including a cement bag and a bicycle, on tracks were reported in the last few months. However, alert loco pilots spotting the objects prevented derailments in most cases.

In a reply sought by MP-based RTI activist Chandrashekhar Gaur, the railways has furnished figures about 200 accidents from 2019-20 to 2023-24. The RTI reply stated that 55 train accidents were reported in 2019-20; 22 in 2020-21; 35 in 2021-22; 48 in 2022-23; 40 in 2023-24 and 18 this year up to August. The railways have provided details about derailments – 40 in 2019-20; by 17 in 2020-21; 27 in 2021-22; 36 in 2022-23 and 25 this year up to August.



POWER GAMES

SHAHID FARIDI
The writer is Resident Editor TNIE, New Delhi.
Follow him on X@Shahid_Faridi_

New Haryana Govt

LIST OF MINISTERS READY FOR OCT 17 SWEARING-IN

Chief minister Nayab Singh Saini will take oath of office for a second consecutive term on October 17. The BJP is preparing for a grand show of strength at the swearing-in ceremony in Panchkula. Prime Minister Narendra Modi, party president J P Nadda, all chief ministers of the BJP-ruled states and a host of top party leaders will attend the function, where over a dozen ministers are likely to take oath alongside the chief minister. Sources indicate that the party has decided to induct two Punjabis, two Jats, two Yadavs, two Dalits, two BCs, one Brahmin, one Gujar and one MLA from the Vaish community in the ministry. Among the frontrunner are Krishan Lal Middha, Vinod Bhayana and Anil Vij from the Punjabi community; Shruti Choudhry and Mahipal Dhanda from the Jat MLAs; Arti Singh Rao and Rao Narbir Singh from Yadavs; Arvind Sharma, Shakti Rani Sharma and Gaurav Gautam from the Brahmins; Krishan Lal Panwar and Krishan Bedi from Dalit community; Tejpal Tanwar and Manmohan Bhadana from Gujars; Ranbir Singh Gangwa and Harvinder Kalyan from backward classes; and Ghanshyam Saraf and Vipul Goel from the Vaish community. According to sources, these names have been shortlisted by the state leadership in consultation with the state in-charge. A final decision will be taken by the party's central leadership. The state can have 14 ministers, including the chief minister, as the 91st Constitutional amendment limited the size of the ministry to 15% of the total strength of the House.

Congress Debacle

NO AICC ACCOUNTABILITY; AXE MAY FALL ON PCC

The story of the unexpected results of Haryana elections was aptly described by a senior politician in following words: Jeetne walon ko nahi pata tha ki woh jeet rahe hain, aur harne walon ko nahi pata tha ki woh haar rahe hain. (The winners did not know they were winning, and the losers had no clue they were losing). Shamsher Singh Gogi, the Congress candidate from Assandh assembly constituency who lost the election by 2,306 votes, summed up his party's sentiment when he said "Haryana mein Hooda Congress hari hai, Congress nahi" (it is not the Congress that is defeated in Haryana, but Hooda's Congress). When elections were announced in Haryana, all polls and pundits predicted a Congress victory. Discussions in Congress revolved around whether there would be a hawa (favourable wind), aandhi (wave) aur a Tsunami in favour of the Congress. Congressmen were convinced of their party's victory. This, according to some, led to fear in **Bhupinder Hooda** camp that a big win for the party may give central leadership a free hand to choose the next chief minister. "Congress is baar Hooda ka Bhajan Lal banayegi" (Congress will do to Hooda what it did to Bhajan Lal) became a common refrain. Bhajan Lal had led the Congress to victory in 2005, but was denied chief ministership. When nominations started, the Congress faced a large number of rebel candidates, 27 to be precise. There were whispers that the rebels had been fielded by Hooda camp to keep the party's numbers close to the majority mark. Election results indicate that the presence of Congress rebels contributed to the party's defeat in 17 constituencies. There was of course a counter consolidation of castes in favour of the BJP against the Jat-led Congress. Hooda's earlier statement from a public platform that he was a 'Jat first and a CM later' came in handy for the BJP for anti-Jat polarisation.

GatiShakti completes 3 yrs, Modi calls it 'transformative'

RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR @New Delhi

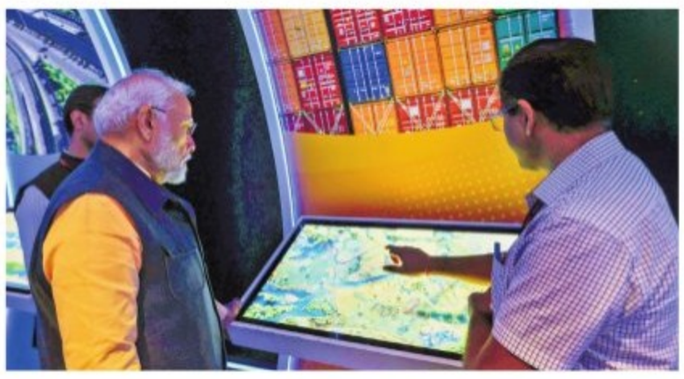
PRIME Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday said the PM GatiShakti National Master Plan (PMGS-NMP) has emerged as a transformative initiative aimed at revolutionising India's infrastructure and is driving faster and more efficient development across sectors.

He also made a surprise visit to the PM GatiShakti Anubhuti Kendra at Bharat Mandapam on the third anniversary of PMGS-NMP.

The Anubhuti Kendra showcases the key features, achievements and milestones of PMGS-NMP which was launched on October 13, 2021, to provide multi-modal connectivity infrastructure to various economic zones.

In a post on X, Modi said: "PM GatiShakti National Master Plan has emerged as a transformative initiative aimed at revolutionizing India's infrastructure. It has significantly enhanced multimodal connectivity, driving faster and more efficient development across sectors." "The seamless integration of various stakeholders has led to boosting logistics, reducing delays and creating new opportunities for several people," he said.

"Thanks to GatiShakti, India is adding speed to fulfil our vision of a Viksit Bharat. It will encourage progress, entrepreneurship and innovation," the prime minister said. As he visited the Anubhuti Kendra at Bharat Mandapam, Modi appreciated the strides made in planning and execution of projects across the country due to the impact of PM GatiShakti.



PM Narendra Modi at GatiShakti Anubhuti Kendra at Bharat Mandapam | PTI

The PMGS-NMP aims to establish multimodal connectivity infrastructure across seven key sectors — Indian Railways, roads, ports, waterways, airports, mass transport, and logistics infrastructure. The Union Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs approved the plan's implementation on October 21, 2021.

Official sources said the initiative involves 44 central ministries, in addition to the seven growth sectors across 36 states and Union Territories.

Additionally, over 1,600 data layers are linked to this portal, assisting ministries and states in efficiently planning infrastructure projects. The Network Planning Group has conducted numerous meetings, evaluating as many 123 projects valued at Rs 15.48 lakh crore so far.

Under the plan, the Union government allocated ₹75,000 crore in the 2023-24 budget for 100 critical infrastructure projects. Progress includes planning over 8,891 km of roads and more than 27,000 km of railway lines through the PMGS initiative.

A 13 GW renewable energy project from Leh to Kaithal in Haryana has been aligned with the Green Energy Corridor, adhering to NMP principles. The PMGS-NMP also heavily utilizes technology, employing spatial planning tools with ISRO imagery developed by BiSAG-N (Bhaskaracharya National Institute for Space Applications and Geoinformatics).

The GatiShakti framework has been presented at various international platforms for promoting international collaboration.

Poll panel urges Centre for forces deployment ahead of Maha, J'khand polls

MUKESH RANJAN @New Delhi

EVEN though the poll schedules have not been announced yet, preparations for the next round of assembly elections have begun. The Election Commission of India (EC) has urged the Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) for pre-poll advance deployment of the Central Armed Police Forces (CRPFs) in Jharkhand and Maharashtra.

As the two states are gearing up for the assembly elections most likely to be held in November-December, the EC has made a request for initial deployment of 100 companies of the CAPFs in Jharkhand and the direction for the same has been given to the forces, the officials said.

The forces are being sent to Naxal violence-affected Jharkhand with an aim to ensure area domination, confidence-building measures, conduct of flag marches and surveillance to ensure smooth conduct of polling, they said, adding that the first batch of 100 companies of the CAPFs would reach Jharkhand by October 14.

Of the total 100 companies, CRPF has been directed to send 35 companies, followed by BSF (25), CISF (10), ITBP (15), and SSB (15), the officials said and noted that this is the preliminary deployment and expected to be more once the EC announces the poll schedule, which is expected sometime this week.

However, the EC has not sent any request for pre-poll deployment in Maharashtra and therefore troop movement is likely to begin once the poll dates are announced, but the companies of the CAPFs are in a ready position to be deployed for the election duty in the state.

According to the officials, the Maharashtra government has been asked to work out the detailed deployment plan in consultation with the respective CAPFs and the Chief Force Coordinator, who holds the rank of IG in CRPF.

During the first round of Assembly elections held between September 18 and October 5, Haryana and Union TerritoryJammu and Kashmir went to the polls.

Voting in J&K UT was conducted in three phases, while polling in Haryana was completed in a single phase. Counting of votes took place on October 8.

Naxal-affected areas

The forces are being sent to Naxal violence-affected Jharkhand with an aim to ensure area domination, confidence-building measures, conduct of flag marches and surveillance to ensure smooth conduct of polling, they said, adding that the first batch of 100 companies of the CAPFs would reach Jharkhand by October 14.

EXPRESS READ

Rahul raises questions on Agnipath scheme

NEW DELHI: After the death of two Agniveers in Nashik during training, Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi on Sunday demanded answers from Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on why the families of the deceased would not get the same pension and benefits as other martyred. "I will keep fighting against this injustice," he added.

Kin to donate ex-DU Prof GN Saibaba's body to Hyderabad medical college

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Hyderabad/New Delhi

THE family members of former Delhi University professor **GN Saibaba**, who passed away on Saturday night, have decided to donate his mortal remains to the state-run Gandhi Hospital.

The 58-year-old noted rights activist breathed his last following postoperative complications after undergoing surgery for gallbladder stones at the Nizam's Institute of Medical Sciences (NIMS) in Hyderabad on Saturday. Saibaba is survived by wife and a daughter.

Immediately after his death, Saibaba's family members donated his eyes to LV Prasad Eye Institute (LVPEI).

In March, the Nagpur bench of the Bombay High Court acquitted wheel-chair bound Saibaba in the alleged Maoist links case booked under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act. The court also set aside his life sentence. The professor, who had 90 per cent physical disability, was initially arrested by the Maharashtra police in the case on May 9, 2014. He had been in prison till 2016 under judicial custody before being released on bail. After his conviction and sentencing in 2017 by a sessions court, he was again sent back to the Nagpur central prison.

During his recent media interaction in Hyderabad, Saibaba alleged that his health had deteriorated beyond recovery due to the ill-treatment he was subjected to by the police and jail authorities from the day of his arrest.

"We invite everyone to join us and remember him fondly on this day. Afterwards, his body will be donated to the hospital as per his wishes," a release from his family read. "That has always been his wish to donate his body," Saibaba's daughter Manjeera told the media. She said that they didn't expect her father's sudden demise as she was speaking to him about the medical procedures till a day before. "None of us, including my father, anticipated something like this would have happened. I still cannot believe he is not with us," Majeera said, standing next to her mother Vasantha.

In a statement in Delhi, Democratic Teachers' Front stated, "Repeated denial of bail for medical treatment to someone who had suffered 90 per cent disability since birth and denial of bail or parole to see his mother before her death contrast grotesquely with parole for Gurmeet Ram Rahim Singh, convicted of rape and murder, for the 14th time during the last four years. This unequal treatment is deliberate on part of government as much it is a complete failure of judiciary."

Saibaba's mortal remains will be first taken to the Telangana Martyrs Memorial and then to his brother's residence for public to pay their homage.

Indigenous Bofors guns delivery to miss '26 deadline

MAYANK SINGH @New Delhi

GOING by the tardy delivery of the indigenously produced advanced **Bofors gun Dhanush** to the Indian Army, it will be difficult to meet the March 2026 dateline, officials said.

The Dhanush is the country's first indigenously built artillery gun, being manufactured by Advanced Weapons and Equipment India Limited (AWEIL), previously a part of the Ordnance Factory Board (OFB).

"The first gun was inducted in April 2019 and till now not even two regiments have become operational. Going by the speed of delivery, it is unlikely that all the guns might be delivered in the remaining time," said a top defence officer. One regiment comprises 18 guns.

The initial plan is to induct 114 guns with 80% indigenous content by 2026. Its indigenous content makes its maintenance easier in terms of spare parts' availability.

The cost of each gun, which also has electronic sites, is about ₹14 crore, much lower than the per unit cost of Bofors. Dhanush can travel through difficult terrains and target enemy targets during the day and night.

These guns, with upgrades, have been deployed along the LAC in Ladakh. The old Bofors gun was 155 mm 39 calibre with a firing range of around 30 kms. Dhanush which fires up to 36 kms has around 877mm longer barrel. The system also has many more modern equipment and technology onboard helping in precise targeting with heavier ordnance.

In addition, the artillery is in the process of inducting other 155 mm gun systems, including 300 Advanced Towed Artillery Gun System (ATAGS), 300 Mounted Gun Systems (MGS) and 400 Towed Gun System (TGS). The Army has inducted 100 155mm/52 calibre K9 Vajra-T guns for which a $720 million contract was signed in 2017.

The plans of the Army include inducting 100 more K9 Vajra-T guns. "The Army aims to standardise its bulk of the guns to 155mm/52 calibre," said Lieutenant General Adosh Kumar, DG, artillery. He said 155mm guns will be the standard calibre of all artillery guns by 2042. Lt Gen Kumar said, "The Army has prepared plans for the next 25 years. We have a plan for 2027, for 2047, and even for 2042."

Navy set to conduct drill in Bahrain

MAYANK SINGH @ New Delhi

CONTINUING with the multination Long Range Training Deployment in the Persian Gulf, INS Tir and Indian Coast Guard Ship (ICGS) Veera of First Training Squadron (1TS) reached the Port of Manama, Bahrain on Saturday.

According to the Indian Navy, the visit is "aimed at enhancing naval cooperation and augmenting interoperability. The Navy is set to engage with the Royal Bahrain Naval Forces (RBNF) on various domains of maritime ops and best shared practices."

Professional interactions, cross ship visits, joint training sessions, yoga sessions, band concerts, friendly sports fixtures, social interactions and community welfare activities are planned during the port call.

The sea trainees will be visiting various training facilities and establishments of RBNF.

JAWAN KILLED

A jawan of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) was killed and four others were injured when their patrolling vehicle hit a tree in Naxalite-affected Balaghat district of Madhya Pradesh on Sunday.

2 CADRES OF MILITANT OUTFIT ARRESTED IN MANIPUR

INDIA	Max	Min		Max	Min
Ahmedabad	31	25	Mumbai	32	26
Bhopal	27	23	Panaji	32	28
Jaipur	31	23	Patna	31	24
Amritsar	33	19	Lucknow	32	23
Chennai	33	26	Port Blair	29	27
Kolkata	32	27	Imphal	28	18
Srinagar	24	12	Chandigarh	33	20

Maha murder ignites political war

MVA says law & order has worsened in state; BJP says Oppn leaders indulging in petty politics

SUDHIR SURYAWANSHI @Mumbai

THE murder of former minister Baba Siddique has triggered a political slugfest ahead of the state Assembly polls with the Opposition demanding resignation of home minister Devendra Fadnavis. Several opposition parties allege that gangland killings are back in Maharashtra.

Former Union minister and NCP leader Sharad Pawar alleged the collapse of law and order in the state. In a social media post, he alleged the state home minister was not serious in handling law and order, which is a cause for concern. "Besides a proper investigation, the home minister should take the responsibility and step down from his ministerial position," Pawar said.

Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Sanjay Raut said that Siddique's killing was not the first such case. "The state home minister rather than performing his duty is busy doing politics and indulging in poaching of Opposition MLAs and breaking political parties. If the government fails to provide security to the people, then it has no right to continue," he said, adding the Siddique's case is frightening.

Leader of Oppositions and Congress MLA Vijay Wadettiwar said that after the death threat to Baba Siddique 15 days ago, he was given the Y category security. "Despite that assailants were able to shoot Siddique dead," he said.

The state home minister rather than performing his duty is busy doing politics and indulging in poaching Opposition MLAs. If the government fails to provide security to the people, then it has no right to continue — Sanjay Raut, Shiv Sena (UBT) leader

"The law and order situation in the state is very grim. Gangland killings have returned to Mumbai and other metro cities," said Wadettiwar, adding he has written to the Mumbai police commissioner about worsening law and order.

Shiv Sena (UBT) MP Priyanka Chaturvedi Siddique had been a former minister and a three-time MLA. "The question is whether any law and order is left in Mumbai", she said. "If a protected person meets such fate, how will common people feel safe?" she asked.

The BJP was on the defensive, saying those involved in the killing of Siddique will not be spared.

"Baba Siddique was a great human being. We are all saddened by his murder. Two of those involved in his murder have been caught and probe is on to find out those who were behind this," BJP national spokesperson and former Union minister Syed Shahnawaz Hussain said.

"The entire country is saddened by his murder but the opposition leaders are indulging in petty politics on this issue," he said.

Baba Siddique's links with small village in Bihar

RAMASHANKAR @Patna

ANXIETY and disbelief were apparent at NCP (Ajit faction) leader Baba Siddique's native village in Bihar's Gopalganj district following his murder in Mumbai on Saturday evening.

Siddique, a former Maharashtra minister, was born on September 13, 1958, in Sheikh Togi village of Manjhagarh block, Gopalganj, Bihar. He was known as Ziauddin Siddique at his ancestral village before he developed his connections in the corridors of power in Maharashtra and tried his luck in politics.

While mourning the murder of Siddique, residents of Sheikhpurdil village raised concerns about the law-and-order situation in Maharashtra and demanded stern action against the accused.

Nephew of Baba Siddique, Ahmed said, "I want an unbiased probe into this. Shockingly, he was murdered even though he was part of the ruling party...I demand a probe committee be formed...the culprits must be given the strictest punishment possible."

Raje absence from key Raj BJP meet triggers rumours

RAJESH ASNANI @Jaipur

THE state BJP has finalised a panel of candidates for the upcoming by-elections on seven assembly seats in Rajasthan, scheduled for upcoming weeks. The state core committee, in a meeting held at the Chief Minister's residence (CMR) on Sunday, approved the panel.

However, the absence of former Chief Minister Vasundhararaje Scindia from this key meeting has sparked rumors of internal discord within the party.

Notably, Raje has distanced herself from significant party activities following the appointment of Bhajanlal Sharma as Chief Minister, replacing her, after the last assembly elections. In the Lok Sabha elections, she largely confined her efforts to her son Dushyant Singh's constituency in Jhalawar, further fueling speculations of her growing disengagement.

This development gains importance amidst ongoing discussions about the BJP's national leadership. Reports suggest that the Sangh had floated Raje's name as a candidate for the position of BJP national president, after the high command reportedly vetoed Sanjay Joshi's candidacy. However, no consensus has been reached on this matter, and Raje's apparent indifference could exacerbate tensions within the Rajasthan BJP and the state government.

The finalised panel for the by-elections is expected to be presented at a meeting in Delhi on Sunday night, chaired by BJP National President JP Nadda. Chief Minister Bhajanlal Sharma, State President Madan Rathore, State In-Charge Radhamohan Das Aggarwal, and State Co-In-Charge Vijaya Rahatkar will represent Rajasthan at the meeting, while Union Ministers Bhupendra Yadav and Satish Poonia will participate via video conference.

Bye-elections

The bye-elections will be held in the following constituencies: Jhunjhunu, Dausa, Deoli-Uniyara, Chaurasi, Khinvsar, Salumbar, and Ramgarh. The finalised panel for the by-elections is expected to be presented at a meeting in Delhi on Sunday night chaired by BJP National President JP Nadda

MUMBAI DIARY

SUDHIR SURYAWANSHI
Our correspondent in Maharashtra
suryawanshi.sudhir@gmail.com

Funds no constraint for slew of promises

In the last one month, the Eknath Shinde-led government in Maharashtra has been holding cabinet meetings almost every alternate day and subsequently issuing orders. More than 1600 government orders have been in the last few months, though there are no adequate funds to implement the announcements. The babus in the Mantralaya are concerned about the way the government funds have been disbursed for welfare schemes keeping assembly polls in mind. There is fear among officials that if this continues, then they may not get their salary on time, let alone development works.

Haryana results drive MVA into introspection

After the Congress defeat in Haryana assembly elections, the MVA and its alliance partners are in panic mode and seriously concerned about their prospects in upcoming Maharashtra polls. Before the Haryana poll results, the opposition alliance was not only confident but overconfident. The partners even dreamed about the CM post and discussed allotment of cabinet portfolios as well. Now, they are cautious. The reason: the state polls can turn neck and neck. Maha Yuti's confidence has got a boost, while the MVA is struggling to put a coherent narrative like in LS polls.

Ajit Pawar now turns to poll management firm

Maharashtra deputy chief minister Ajit Pawar, who used to trash PR experts and poll strategists, is now seriously listening to someone like Naresh Arora, co-founder of campaign management company DesignBoxed. It has become a talk of the town. Aroa is also using the buzz to boost his image, claiming he has finally made it Ajit Pawar wear a pink jacket as part of a revamp of NCP and its leadership. The reason behind roping in the expensive Arora firm is the defeat of Sunetra Pawar in Baramati Lok sabha poll. Pawar now spends considerable time to hear PR gimmicks. Now, the election results will show whether these gimmicks work.

Tiger safari zone to be launched in Ramnagar

NARENDRA SETHI @Dehradun

IN a move poised to revitalise the state's eco-tourism landscape, the Uttarakhand forest department is set to introduce a tiger safari zone in Ramnagar, fostering wildlife enthusiasts' encounters with the big cats in a new arena.

According to the officials of the department, the proposed zone, located in the Tarai West Forest Division, adjacent to Corbett Tiger Reserve, is expected to generate direct and indirect employment opportunities.

This move follows the successful launch of tiger safaris in Phato and Hathi Dagar areas over the past two years, which received an overwhelming response.

Speaking to this newspaper, DFO Prakash Arya revealed, "This zone will be located within the Chandni Eco-Tourism zone of Bailpadav. Thirty vehicles will be allowed to enter the zone twice a day, morning and evening, enabling visitors to spot tigers and other wildlife", adding , he told, "This area is rich in biodiversity, housing not just tigers but also elephants, leopards, bears, and various other species".

Marking error in math fails Class X student, Guj teachers fined again

DILIP SINGH KSHATRIYA @Ahmedabad

TEACHERS have again been penalized in Gujarat for errors in evaluating board exam papers. In the latest incident in the Gujarat board exams, several teachers were found making mistakes while totaling marks. One case involved a Math teacher who made a significant totaling error of 30 marks, resulting in a student failing the Class X board exam.

The Gujarat State Education Board (GSEB) discovered the error when students applied for re-assessment, revealing that the Math teacher had incorrectly calculated the marks.

This is not the first time such mistakes have occurred. In February 2024, it was revealed in the Gujarat Assembly that over 9,000 teachers had been fined a total of ₹1.54 crore over a two-year period for similar errors in totaling marks during the evaluation of Class X and XII board exam papers.

In a recent crackdown, the Gujarat Secondary and Higher Secondary Education Board (GSEB) has fined 4,488 teachers for making totaling errors while marking Class 10 and 12 board exams. These mistakes will collectively cost the teachers ₹64 lakh in fines, according to GSEB officials.

In a fresh wave of penalties, the Gujarat Secondary and Higher Secondary Education Board (GSEB) has fined 1,654 teachers who served as paper checkers for Class 10 exams, collectively imposing fines amounting to ₹20 lakh for errors in marking. Teachers are penalized ₹100 for every mistake of one mark.

Similarly, 1,404 teachers involved in checking Class 12 general stream papers have been fined a total of ₹24.31 lakh. These errors have serious consequences for students, as admissions to diploma courses are based on the merit list derived from Class 10 and 12 board exam results.

Meanwhile, in a written reply submitted to the Gujarat Assembly in February 2024, the state revealed it had imposed fines totaling ₹1.54 crore on 9,218 teachers for errors in evaluating board exam papers.

RG Kar: Doctor on hunger stir taken to ICU; march to Raj Bhavan today

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Kolkata

ONE of the participants in the 'fast-unto-death' protest of junior doctors of West Bengal to press for their demands following the RG Kar rape-murder incident was taken ill on Sunday and carted to the NRS ICU here. The protesting doctors have given a call for a march to Raj Bhavan on Monday against the "dissatisfactory" CBI probe into the RG Kar incident.

Many people also held "symbolic fast" in various parts of the state to express solidarity with the agitators.

On the government side, chief secretary Manoj Pant wrote to the Joint Platform of Doctors (JPD), requesting it to call off its proposed agitation on October 15, stating that the stir was coinciding with the state government's previously announced 'Pujo Carnival' to be organised the same day. He also invited representatives of the body for a meeting at Swasthya Bhawan on Monday to discuss their demands.

Sources said the junior doctors have dubbed Pant's response as only a "pro forma" that did not say much about their demands.

In an email, Pant also urged the JPD to "advise" the junior doctors to end their hunger strike in the interest of their health and well-being.

"The carnival is a prominent event attended by thousands, along with international dignitaries who come to witness this UNESCO-recognised Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. Any demonstration which may coincide with this event, or misuse of the demonstration by certain elements to cause disruption during this event could pose significant safety and security concerns for the visitors," Pant said.

Three of the junior doctors on 'fast-unto-death' in Kolkata and Siliguri have been hospitalised after their health condition deteriorated.

Thirty eminent personalities, including filmmaker Aparna Sen, actor Riddhi Sen, theatre personality Kaushik Sen, filmmaker Srijit Mukherjee, and activist Bolan Gangopadhyay, in an open letter to the CM also urged doctors to withdraw their fast-unto-death.

77 senior doctors threaten mass resignation

77 senior doctors at Kalyani JNM Hospital have threatened mass resignation, seeking justice for the RG Kar hospital victim and expressing solidarity with junior medics on a fast-unto-death. Doctors informed the registrar via email about their decision to stop work

Schools focus on attendance in cybercrime hub

MUKESH RANJAN @Ranchi

IN one of its kind initative to prevent children's involvement in cyber crime related activities, attendance at this school in Jamtara is taken thrice to ensure that the students do not sneak out for any kind of phishing activities.

According to officials, as many as 20 per cent of the students studying Government Gulab Rai Gutgutia +2 School under Karamatand Block in Jamtara, were found missing after marking their attendance in the morning.

The school has current strength of 2,000 students studying in class 9 to 12. It was suspected that these children, who went missing from school after marking their attendance, were involved in cyber crime in connivance with the youths who commit cyber crimes. When police wanted to arrest these children, their parents forcibly took the photocopy of the attendance register from the school and produced before the court and got bail very easily.

Notably, Jamtara is known as the phishing capital of India and a hub for cybercrimes. The city has been involved in cybercrime on a global scale, with cyber criminals from the area committing fraud in other parts of India and even abroad.

Modus operandi of these budding cyber criminals was revealed recently when Kerala police arrested a minor involved in cyber crime and wanted to take him on transit remand. But, his parents succeeded in securing bail by showing his attendance in school.

When the police investigated the matter, it was revealed that the school attendance sheet was being used as a tool by those students to avoid their arresting. Therefore, suspecting the involvement of school children in cyber crime, the school principal started taking their attendance thrice, first in the morning, then in the noon and lastly in the evening before their dispersal, which proved to be quite effective in preventing children's involvement in cyber crimes.

"Now, after the direction was passed in March April, 2023, number of children missing after marking their attendance, has decreased to almost zero. It is really satisfying that we have been able to stop children's involvement in cyber crimes," said Regional Joint Director of Education, Santhal Pargana Division, Dr Gopal Krishna Jha, the then District Education Officer in Jamtara.

"It all happened after we were informed by the police that the children, studying in Government Gulab Rai Gutgutia +2 School, were involved in cyber crimes. When we examined closely, it was found that many of the children sneaked out of the school after marking their attendance only to return the next day," said the RJDE. Interestingly, those children who were found sneaking out involved both the boys and girls, he added.

The RJDE said that after a long brainstorming, they decided to mark their attendance thrice to keep a track of the missing children. When they started keeping a track of it, it was found that as many as 20 per cent of the children were sneaking out of school regularly, they said.

"Since, it was a matter of embarrassment both for the school and parents; we started sending a team of teachers to their homes to convince their parents explaining the legal aspects of it," said Jha.

Cong cries police bias as behaviour of MP politicians' relatives raises heat

ANURAAG SINGH @Bhopal

AT least three incidents of prominent politicians' sons and grandsons reportedly misbehaving with police in full public view have been reported in MP over the last five days. While two of those incidents pertain to the son of MP cabinet minister Prahlad Singh Patel and the grandson of Karnataka governor Thawar Chand Gehlot, one relates to the son of ex-Congress MLA and MP Laxman Singh.

While the police have registered an FIR against the Congress leader's son Aditya Vikram Singh and driver in Guna district, no action has been taken in the incidents pertaining to the MP minister's son Prabal Patel or the Karnataka governor's grandson Vishal Gehlot.

The first incident happened in Jabalpur city on October 9 evening, after a car boarded by the MP cabinet minister and ex-union minister Prahlad Patel's son Prabal Patel reportedly hit a vehicle boarded by a doctor and his mother.

According to informed sources in Jabalpur, Patel and his aides first misbehaved with the doctor. Seeing the development, when the police rushed to the spot, Patel also misbehaved with the on-duty cops. The minister's son also threatened to get one of the cops stripped of uniform.

While confirming the October 9 evening incident, a senior police officer in Jabalpur, said no action has been taken in the matter, as no complaint has been received. The state Congress, while posting another viral video through its X handle, also alleged that Karnataka Governor Thawar Chand Gehlot's grandson had physically assaulted a cop in Nagda town of Ujjain during a heated altercation during immersion of goddess Durga idols.

Police sources, while denying that Gehlot's grandson had slapped or physically assaulted any cop (he had only tried to snatch the cell-phone from a cop who was filming the incident), added a probe is on.

In Guna's Raghogarh, ex-CM Digvijaya Singh's nephew and ex- Congress MLA and MP Laxman Singh's son Aditya Vikram Singh was booked along with his driver for attempting to stop a street play on cops' awareness campaign on crime against women and also misbehaving with a female cop. State party spokesperson Abhinav Barolia, alleged that two sets of laws in the state. "One set is for ex-Congress MLA Laxman Singh's son who has been booked by police on the complaint of a cop only, the other relates to the BJP leaders' sons and grandsons, where the police will not act in the absence of complaint."

No action yet

Two of those incidents pertain to the son of MP cabinet minister Prahlad Singh Patel and the grandson of Karnataka governor Thawar Chand Gehlot, one relates to the son of ex-Congress MLA and MP Laxman Singh. While the police have registered an FIR against them, no action has been taken yet.

1.4 m
Houses are without electricity after a powerful storm sweeps Sao Paulo, Brazil

GLOBAL WEATHER
LR: Light Rain • HR: Heavy Rain • TDS: Thundershower • LC: Light Cloud • SNY: Sunny

Beijing	21	7	SNY	Los Angeles	29	18	SNY
Colombo	30	26	LR	Melbourne	16	9	SNY
Dhaka	33	27	LR	Moscow	11	6	LC
Dubai	36	29	SNY	New York	17	8	SNY
Houston	32	19	SNY	Singapore	31	27	LR
Istanbul	25	19	SNY	Toronto	14	5	SNY
London	13	4	LC	Washington	17	9	SNY

Israel PM mulls plan to seal off aid to N Gaza

Aim of the proposal is to starve out Hamas of food & water and pressure them to release the remaining hostages

JERUSALEM

ISRAELI Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is examining a plan to seal off humanitarian aid to northern Gaza in an attempt to starve out Hamas militants, a plan that, if implemented, could trap without food or water hundreds of thousands of Palestinians unwilling or unable to leave their homes.

Israel has issued many evacuation orders for the north throughout the yearlong war, the most recent of which was on Sunday.

The plan proposed to Netanyahu and the Israeli parliament by a group of retired generals would escalate the pressure, giving Palestinians a week to leave the northern third of the Gaza Strip, including Gaza City, before declaring it a closed military zone.

Those who remain would be considered combatants — meaning military regulations would allow troops to kill them — and denied food, water, medicine and fuel, according to a copy of the plan. Its chief architect says the plan is the only way to break Hamas in the north and pressure it to release the remaining hostages.

The plan calls for Israel to maintain control over the north for an indefinite period to attempt to create a new administration without Hamas, splitting the Gaza Strip in two.

There has been no decision by the government to fully carry out the so-called "Generals' Plan," and it is unclear how strongly it is being considered. One official with knowledge of the matter said parts of the plan are already being implemented, without specifying which parts.

A second official, who is Israeli, said Netanyahu "had read and studied" the plan, "like many plans that have reached him throughout the war," but did not say whether any of it had been adopted. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because the plan is not supposed to be discussed publicly.

On Sunday, Israel launched an offensive against Hamas fighters in the Jabaliya refugee camp north of the city. No trucks of food, water or medicine have entered the north since Sept 30, according to the UN and the website of the Israeli military agency overseeing humanitarian aid crossings.

The State Department spokesperson has said the United States is against any plan that would bring direct Israeli occupation in Gaza.

The Generals' Plan was presented to the parliament last month. Since then, officials from the prime minister's office called seeking more details, according to its chief architect, Giora Eiland, a former head of the National Security Council.

Israeli media reported that Netanyahu told a closed parliamentary defence committee session that he was considering the plan. "They will either have to surrender or to starve," Eiland said. "It doesn't necessarily mean that we're going to kill every person," he said. "It will not be necessary. People will not be able to live there (the north). The water will dry up," Eiland said.

WAR WATCH
ISRAEL-GAZA: DAY 373

TOLL SO FAR
42,731

Israeli strike kills eight in central Gaza

An Israeli strike on the central Gaza Strip killed a family of eight, Palestinian medical officials said on Sunday. The strike in Gaza late on Saturday hit a home in the Nuseirat refugee camp, killing parents and their six children, ages 8 to 23, according to Al-Aqsa Martyrs Hospital in nearby Deir al-Balah, where the bodies were taken. "They were safe, while he was sleeping, and he and all his children died," said the man's brother, Mohammad Abu Ghali. Women stroked the body bags, in tears. In northern Gaza, Israeli air and ground forces have been attacking Jabaliya.

> **They will either have to surrender or to starve. It doesn't necessarily mean that we're going to kill every person. It will not be necessary. People will not be able to live there**
>
> Giora Eiland, chief architect, Generals' Plan

US to send air defence battery and troops to Israel

WASHINGTON

THE United States will send a Terminal High Altitude Area Defence battery and troops to Israel, the Pentagon said on Sunday, even as Iran warned Washington to keep American military forces out of Israel.

Maj Gen Pat Ryder, Pentagon spokesman, said in a statement that Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin authorised the deployment of the THAAD battery at the direction of President Joe Biden. Ryder said the system will help bolster Israel's air defences following Iran's missile attacks on Israel.

"This action underscores the United States' ironclad commitment to the defence of Israel, and to defend Americans in Israel, from any further ballistic missile attacks by Iran," Ryder said.

The Iranian warning came in a post X long associated with Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi, who noted the reports that the US was considering the deployment. Israel is widely believed to be preparing a military response to Iran's Oct 1 attack when it fired roughly 180 missiles into Israel.

It was not imediately clear where the THAAD battery was coming from. The US deployed one of the batteries to the Middle East along with additional Patriot battalions to bolster protections for US forces in the region late last year after the Oct. 7, 2023, attack on Israel by Hamas militants. Ryder also said that the US sent a THAAD battery to Israel in 2019 for training.

A file photo of Terminal High Altitude Area Defence anti-ballistic missile defence system is displayed on the South Lawn of the White House in Washington | AP

According to an April report by the Congressional Research Service, the Army has seven THAAD batteries. Generally each consists of six truck-mounted launchers, 48 interceptors, radio and radar equipment and required 95 soldiers to operate.

The THAAD is considered a complementary system to the Patriot, but it can defend a wider area. It can hit targets at ranges of 150 to 200 kms.

Israeli airstrikes destroyed an Ottoman-era market in Lebanon's southern city of Nabatiyeh overnight, killing at least one person and wounding four more. Lebanon's Civil Defense said it battled fires in 12 residential buildings and 40 shops in the market, which dates back to 1910.

"Our livelihoods have all been leveled," said Ahmad Fakih, whose shop was destroyed.

Returning booster of rocket caught at SpaceX launchpad

BOCA CHICA

SPACEX pulled off the boldest test flight yet of its enormous Starship rocket on Sunday, catching the returning booster back at the launch pad with mechanical arms.

A jubilant Elon Musk called it "science fiction without the fiction part."

Towering almost 400 feet, the empty Starship blasted off at sunrise from the southern tip of Texas near the Mexican border. It arced over the Gulf of Mexico like the four Starships before it that ended up being destroyed, either soon after liftoff or while ditching into the sea. The previous one in June had been the most successful until Sunday's demo, completing its flight without exploding.

This time, Musk, SpaceX's CEO and founder, upped the challenge for the rocket that he plans to use to send people back to the moon and on to Mars.

At the flight director's command, the first-stage booster flew back to the launch pad where it had blasted off seven minutes earlier. The launch tower's monstrous metal arms, dubbed chopsticks, caught the descending 232-foot stainless steel booster and gripped it tightly, dangling it well above the ground.

"The tower has caught the rocket!!" Musk announced via X. "Big step towards making life multiplanetary was made today." Company employees screamed in joy, jumping and pumping their fists into the air. NASA Administrator Bill Nelson said continued Starship testing will prepare the nation for landing astronauts at the moon's south pole.

It was up to the flight director to decide, in real time with a manual control, whether to attempt the landing. SpaceX said both the booster and launch tower had to be in good, stable condition. Otherwise, it was going to end up in the gulf like the previous ones. Everything was judged to be ready for the catch.

Once free of the booster, the empty retro-looking spacecraft on top continued around the world. An hour later, it made a controlled landing in the Indian Ocean, adding to the day's achievement. Cameras on a nearby buoy showed flames shooting up from the water as the booster impacted precisely at the targeted spot and sank, as planned. *AP*

SpaceX's mega rocket booster returns to the launch pad to be captured during a test flight on Sunday in Boca Chica, Texas | AP

EXPRESS READ

Sri Lanka asks police to reinvestigate cases

Sri Lanka's government ordered the police to reinvestigate some high-profile cases, including the 2019 Easter Sunday terror attacks, the 2005 murder of a Tamil journalist D Sivaram, the 2006 abduction and disappearance of a Tamil academic who headed the Eastern University and the 2011 disappearance of two political party activists in Jaffna. *PTI*

Taiwan on alert as China aircraft carrier detected

Taiwan said it was "on alert" as it detected a Chinese aircraft carrier group to its south on Sunday, days after the United States warned Beijing against taking "provocative" actions on the self-ruled island. Taiwan's defence ministry said that a Chinese aircraft carrier group had entered the Bashi Channel, and is likely to proceed into the western Pacific".

Vietnam, China agree to calm SCS tensions as they sign new trade deal

Vietnam's PM Pham Minh Chinh (right) and China's Premier Li Qiang wave as they pose for a photo during a meeting in Hanoi on Sunday | AFP

HANOI

VIETNAM and China agreed to calm tensions in their South China Sea (SCS)dispute, Vietnamese state media reported on Sunday, days after Hanoi accused Beijing of a "brutal" attack on its fishermen.

China is Vietnam's biggest trade partner, but the two countries share historic tensions including in the South China Sea, a waterway through which trillions of dollars of trade pass each year. Beijing has for years sought to expand its presence in contested areas of the sea, brushing aside an international ruling that its claim to most of the waterway has no legal basis. Last week Hanoi protested a "brutal" attack by Chinese vessels, in which it said 10 Vietnamese fishermen were beaten with iron bars and robbed of thousands of dollars' worth of fish and equipment.

Vietnamese Prime Minister Pham Minh Chinh and visiting Chinese Premier Li Qiang "exchanged sincere and frank opinions on maritime issues" at a meeting in Hanoi, Vietnamese state media said. "They committed to adequately controlling differences... avoiding actions that complicate the situation, and jointly maintaining stability at sea," the *Bao Chinh Phu* newspaper said.

The two countries also signed 10 agreements on Sunday, including on expanding cross-border railway links, payments and economic cooperation.

They agreed to work on a technical plan for a rail link between Lao Cai in northern Vietnam and Hekou in China's Yunnan province. *AFP*

Ukrainian recruiters raid Kyiv bars, restaurants to recruit men for army

KYIV

UKRAINIAN military recruitment officers raided restaurants, bars and a concert hall in Kyiv, checking military registration documents and detaining men who were not in compliance, media and witnesses reported.

Officers descended on Kyiv's Palace of Sports venue after a concert on Friday night by Ukrainian rock band Okean Elzy. Video footage aired by local media outlets appears to show officers stationed outside the doors of the concert hall intercepting men as they exit. In the footage, officers appear to be forcibly detaining some men. Checks were also conducted at Goodwine, an upscale shopping center, and Avalon, a popular restaurant.

It is unusual for such raids to take place in the capital, and reflects Ukraine's dire need for fresh recruits. All Ukrainian men aged 25-60 are eligible for conscription, and men aged 18-60 are not allowed to leave the country.

A 27-year-old man said he left the concert as the last song was playing after he was told about the recruitment officers. He said he saw soldiers and police talking to people but "didn't see anything super aggressive."

He said men felt in danger of being drafted whenever they ventured outside. "That inner state of always being in danger, it's back again," he said.

He said his university draft waiver was taken away after Ukraine passed laws in April that both lowered draft-eligible age for men from 27 to 25 and did away with some draft exemptions. Local reports said raids were also conducted in clubs and restaurants across other Ukrainian cities, including Kharkiv and Dnipro in eastern and central Ukraine.

Ukraine has intensified its mobilisation drive this year. A new law came into effect this spring stipulating that those eligible for military service must input their information into an online system or face penalties.

Meanwhile, Ukraine's military said on Saturday that it struck a Russian-controlled oil terminal in the partially occupied Luhansk region that provides fuel for Russia's war effort.

ASIA MATTERS

Missing GIRL FOUND, SIX detained

A 12-year-old girl who was reported missing on Oct 8 after she went to retrieve food from a car parked at her flat in Bandar Bukit Tinggi has been found safe, *The Straits Times* reported. Six individuals, including two women, have been detained in connection with her alleged kidnapping. South Klang's police chief, Assistant Commissioner Cha Hoong Fong, said the victim was found at about 2.30 pm on Oct 12. Investigation showed that the victim was believed to have been kidnapped," he said. AC Cha said further intelligence obtained led to several raids in Segambut Dalam.

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POSSESSION NOTICE - (for immovable property) Rule 8-(1)

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of IIFL Home Finance Limited (Formerly known as India Infoline Housing Finance Ltd.) (IIFL HFL) under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, a Demand Notice was issued by the Authorised Officer of the company to the borrowers / co-borrowers mentioned herein below to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules. The borrower in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of IIFL HFL for an amount as mentioned herein under with interest thereon. The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act. If the borrower clears the dues of the "IIFL HFL" together with all costs, charges and expenses incurred, at any time before the date fixed for sale or transfer, the secured assets shall not be sold or transferred by "IIFL HFL" and no further step shall be taken by "IIFL HFL" for transfer or sale of the secured assets.

Name of the Borrower(s)/ Co-Borrower(s)	Description of secured asset (immovable property)	Total Outstanding Dues (Rs.)	Date of Demand Notice	Date of Possession
Mr. R Pinto Mrs. Maria P (Prospect No. 970268)	All That Piece And Parcel Of Municipal No.117, Old House List No.225, Kaneshumari No.81, Pid No.89/264/117 Situated At Kammanahalli, Kacharkanahalli Dakle, Kasaba Hobli-I, Bangalore North Tq, Bangalore, Karnataka, India, 560043 Area Admeasuring (in Sq. Ft.): Property Type: Land_area, Built_up_area, Carpet_area roperty Area: 900.00, 621.00, 527.85	Rs. 4477804.00/- (Rupees Forty Four Lakh Seventy Seven Thousand Eight Hundred and Four Only)	06-Aug 2024	09-Oct 2024

For, further details please contact to Authorised Officer at Branch Office: "ADAM CHAMBERS," #11, Richmond Road, Bengaluru - 560025/or Corporate Office: Plot No.98, Phase-IV, Udyog Vihar, Gurgaon, Haryana.

Place: Bangalore Date: 14/10/2024 Sd/- Authorised Officer, For IIFL Home Finance Limited

CITY UNION BANK LIMITED
Credit Recovery and Management Department
Administrative Office: No.24-B, Gandhi Nagar, Kumbakonam - 612 001. E-Mail id: crmd@cityunionbank.in, Phone: 0435-2432322, Fax: 0435-2431746

CANCELLATION OF RE-TENDER-CUM-AUCTION SALE

We refer to our **Re-Tender-cum-Auction sale notice dated 27-09-2024, Published on 30-09-2024** in **"The New Indian Express" and "Udayavani"** Newspapers for the account of **Mr. Mohit Kumar Jain, M/s. Just Love It Apparel LLP,** with our **Bengaluru-Malleswaram Branch,** intimating the date of Auction Sale on **18-10-2024.** The Auction Sale for **Schedule - A Property is Cancelled.** For **Schedule - C Property Auction will be conducted** and other terms and conditions remains unchanged.

Place : Kumbakonam, Date : 10-10-2024 Authorised Officer

Regd. Office: 149, T.S.R. (Big) Street, Kumbakonam, Thanjavur District, Tamil Nadu - 612 001. CIN - L65110TN1904PLC001337, Telephone No.0435-2402322, Fax: 0435-2431746, Website: www.cityunionbank.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

The general public is hereby notified that the original Deed of Sale dated November 13, 1996, executed by M/s Sunrise Builders in favour of Lt. Col. Gurlal Singh Sidhu, Mrs. Manjeet Kaur and Mrs. Manveen Gill, registered as Document No.2274-96-97, Book - I in the Office of the Sub-Registrar, Shivajinagar, in respect of the property detailed in the Schedule hereinbelow, forming a part of the apartment complex known as 'Ahuja Complex' has been lost. A report of the same has been lodged at the Ashok Nagar Police Station on 27.09.2024 vide Lost Report No.1261489/2024.

You are hereby cautioned not to deal with the Schedule Property described hereinbelow with any person other than the undersigned who are the lawful owners.

Description of property conveyed under the aforementioned Deed of Sale dated November 13, 1996 is as follows:

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

1225/45000 undivided right and interest, which undivided right and interest works out to 636.67 sq.ft. of land and 16.6 sq. mts of old building comprised in all that piece and parcel of the property bearing Old No.5C, New No.96 and situated at Richmond Road, Corporation Division No.61, Bangalore inclusive of passage measuring average width throughout the length of the passage being 17' and length of passage being 187'8" touching the boundary of the property totally measuring 23,388 sq.ft. and bounded on the:

North By: Property Nos.91, 92, 93, 94 and 95, Richmond Road and a passage of the said premises and measuring 181' 10" on that side;
South By: Property of Ali Raza Trust measuring 125' on that side; **East By:** Baldwin Girls High School and measuring 147'6" on that side; and
West By: Private land and measuring 125'6" on that side;

Together with a right to construct Apartment No.62 in Ground Floor in the building, measuring super built up area of about 1225 sq.ft.

Sd/- **Manveen Gill**

Aadhar Housing Finance Ltd.

Corporate Office : 802, Natraj By Rustomjee, Western Express Highway, Sir M.V. Road, Andheri East, Mumbai - 400069, Maharashtra.
Nelamangala Branch : 1st floor, Katha No. 658/A, Vinayaka Nagar,Arishinakunte,Near Honda Showroom, Nelamangala,Banglore-562123,(Karnataka).

APPENDIX IV POSSESSION NOTICE (for immovable property)

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of Aadhar Housing Finance Limited (AHFL) under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, Demand Notice(s) issued by the Authorised Officer of the company to the Borrower(s) / Guarantor(s) mentioned herein below to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower(s) / Guarantor(s) and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under Sub-Section (4) of the Section 13 of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest Enforcement rules, 2002. The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub –section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets. The borrower in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of AHFL for an amount as mentioned herein under with interest thereon.

Sl No.	Name of the Borrower(s) / Co-Borrower	Description of Secured Asset (Immovable Property)	Demand Notice Date and Amount	Date of Possession
1	(COMBINE LOAN CODE_NO. 22800000675 Nelamangala Branch) Narasimhamurthy K (Borrower) Jayamma N (1st Co Borrower) Chethana K N (2nd Co Borrower)	Khatha No.8/3, Kuruvel Thimmanahalli,, Narsepura Grama Panchayathi, Nelamangala Taluk , Bangalore Rural, Bengaluru - 562111, Karnataka. Bounded on : **East by :** Property belongs to Sri. Narasaiah, **West by :** Property belongs to Sri. Ranjanna, **North by :** House belongs to Sri. D Ramaiah and **South by** : 4ft Road.	09-08-2021 ₹ 11,24,767.00	08-10-2024

Place : Nelamangala
Date : 14.10.2024

Authorised Officer
Aadhar Housing Finance Limited

IN THE COURT OF DISTRICT MUNSIF CUM JUDICIAL MAGISTRATE AT RANIPET - RANIPET DISTRICT

I.A No. 2,3,4 of 2022 in O.S No. 39 of 2013

R.S.Nasar Sharif & 5 Others
... Petitioners / Plaintiff's

Vs

R.S.Ghouse Shariff & 15 Others
... Respondents / Defendants

To,
Mr. Shabbir S/o Late R.S.Ghouse Sharif,
Mr. Abrar S/o Late R.S.Ghouse Shariff,
Mrs.Yasmin Firdous D/o Late R.S.Ghouse Sharif,
Mrs. Rukh Sana D/o Late.R.S.Ghouse Sharif,
all are residing at Flat No. 50405, Nikoo Homes, Bhartiya City, Near Regal Hospital, Thanisandra main Road, Bangalore 560064.
... 17th to 21st Proposed Party

Take notice that the above applications has been filed for impleading L.R's of Late.Haji. R.S.Ghouse Sharif in a pending suit for declaration of legal heirs of the deceased Late. Haji Abdul Satthar Saheb. When the above application came up for hearing before the above court on 30.09.2024 for service of notice in the above applications. His Honour was pleased to order notice to you through paper publication returnable on 21.10.2024. Be present in the above said court on 21.10.2024 at 10.30 A.M either in person or through counsel, failing which the matter will be decided in your absence.

D.Mohammed Sadhiquddin L.L.B,
Advocate,
No. 1/42A Bazaar Street, Ranipet,
Ranipet District. Cell: 9994396114.

How estate planning plays crucial role in preserving wealth

Experts say it is essential to have a backup mechanism in the form of estate planning to protect and transfer wealth to beneficiaries, thereby preventing disputes

MONIKA YADAV @New Delhi

DIVI Dutta, a partner with IndusLaw, remembers a case where her client found himself amidst litigation that threatened his financial stability.

The client's wife was involved in a lawsuit concerning the enforcement of a personal guarantee, his daughter was in the middle of divorce proceedings, and his son, who got separated from his wife, was also anticipating divorce proceedings.

The client wanted to protect his assets from these litigation and ensure a succession plan for his children and grandchildren. She resolved his problem by designing a trust.

"Setting up a trust early on helps ring-fence assets from legal risks like divorce or litigation, while still allowing control during one's lifetime.

It also ensures a smooth transition of wealth to future generations, protecting both family stability and business legacy," says Dutta.

As per Lokesh Shah, Partner with IndusLaw, it is essential that one grows his wealth while at the same time has a backup mechanism in the form of estate planning to preserve his wealth.

"There are numerous instances of successful businessmen setting up family trust to secure their future. For instance, the Fisher Family Trust, Zydus Family Trust.

These instances teach us that the right time for estate planning is 'now'," Shah says.

With the growing number of start-ups, estate planning has become quite popular among young entrepreneurs.

According to Amit Pathak, Managing Director at Warmond, "Risks and rewards in start-ups are quite high and therefore, promoters are concerned about putting all their eggs in one basket. Many amongst them have set up private trusts to mitigate this risk and safeguard their personal wealth from future business uncertainties."

ELEMENTS OF ESTATE PLAN

ESTATE PLANNING

It is the process of arranging for the management and distribution of an individual's assets after death. It involves creating legal documents to ensure that a person's wishes regarding the property, finances, and healthcare are honoured.

WHAT IS A WILL?

A will serves as the foundational document that outlines how a person's assets and responsibilities will be handled after death. It allows individuals to specify beneficiaries, appoint guardians for minor children, and designate executors to manage the estate.

TRUST

A trust is a way to manage, protect your assets for someone else's benefit. It is created when you write a document that names a trustee—either an individual or a professional entity—who will handle the assets and ensure they are managed according to your wishes.

ABOUT POA

A power of attorney (POA) is a legal document that allows an individual to authorise another person to make decisions on their behalf. This can include financial, medical, or legal matters. It ensures that someone trusted can manage the principal's affairs.

Mistakes in succession plan

People generally make the will and forget about it.

In situations where a person may have acquired properties after the creation of the will, if the will is not updated the inheritance of such assets may become challenging, says Divi Dutta. Lokesh Shah of IndusLaw also echoed the same.

"Proof of medical fitness of the testator should always be there when the testator is aged and writing the will. This would show that the testator was medically fit and of sound mind when he was drafting the will," Dutta added.

She also stressed that formation of Trust is a complex and comprehensive process. One must always consult experienced professionals. If the purpose of the Trust, appointment of trustee, revocation of trustee, roles of trustee, etc. are not clearly defined in the Trust Deed, the governance of Trust becomes difficult. Also, forming a trust is an expensive process, so all costs related to it should be understood in depth beforehand. Even the different tax implications that the Trust could be subject to should be known beforehand, cautions Dutta.

Common misconceptions

As per Shah of IndusLaw, estate and succession planning are often seen as taking away self-control and giving control to future generations.

However, one of the prominent reasons to undertake estate planning is to have the freedom to do as you wish and to give legal authority to your preferences, which the intestate rules may not provide for.

Pathak of Warmond emphasises, "A private trust can be structured in a way that the settlor or entrepreneur retains control over the assets during their lifetime.

Another misconception that some individuals have is that private trusts should only be created by the elderly, which is also incorrect. It is important for people of any age group who have created wealth to preserve it and have a sound succession plan in place."

According to Dutta, one common belief is that succession planning can be done without professional help; however, it is a complex process that requires expert guidance to ensure compliance with legal requirements.

Another misconception is that insurance can replace succession planning. In reality, insurance serves a different purpose—while it indemnifies losses, succession planning is focused on preserving wealth for future generations.

Additionally, some people think that estate planning is solely for tax avoidance. While minimizing tax liabilities can be a benefit, the primary goal is to protect and transfer wealth to beneficiaries, thereby preventing disputes.

MONEY MATTERS

WHAT DOES TATA'S LEGACY MEAN TO YOUR MONEY

FINANCIAL KNOWLEDGE

RAJAS KELKAR

(The author is editor-in-chief at www.moneyminute.in)

THIS column is not an obituary on Ratan Tata. The purpose of reading this column is to understand the connections between major events and your money. Tata's demise is certainly a significant business event. You must understand the impact he had on your money. The values he leaves behind will continue to influence your behaviour regarding money.

It is well established that in his lifetime, Ratan Tata's leadership created enormous wealth for the Tata Group businesses and shareholders. He nurtured people who enabled that remarkable surge to the $ 500 bn market value of the Tata Group by the time he stepped down from executive roles. If you invested in any Tata Group companies at the turn of the century and remained invested, you have made a fortune. As a minority shareholder, you may have had moments of frustration.

However, as a long-term investor, you are happy with wealth creation. The operating word here is 'long-term' investment. Tata always put integrity above everything else. He inherited that culture from J R D Tata, another group patriarch. However, it is remarkable that he nurtured those values even though no specific rules were mandated in the 1990s. You have made money on Tata group companies only if you have invested in those companies over these 30 years. Any short-term moves could have meant that you left holes in wealth creation. Integrity is also connected to your temperament. In this column, we have often talked about the importance of staying invested to benefit from the long-term compounding of wealth.

EXPRESS ILLUSTRATION

If you wish to have adequate money for your retirement, you must follow a disciplined approach to investing. That requires an effort to manage your income and expenditure. Your integrity is tested when you work hard and still fall below your expectations. It is also tested when you have money but have more ways to spend it. Tata always concentrated on doing 'the right thing' when pushed into a corner.

Doing the right thing

If you consider the term 'ethical capitalism', you may think it is an oxymoron. That is how we were taught about capitalism in the first four decades after independence. However, people like Tata have not only talked on that path but walked it too. That was even when the environment was hostile to businesses. From your money standpoint, you must focus on things that allow you to create wealth legitimately. For example, you must clearly understand the importance of 'tax avoidance' and 'tax evasion'. You can benefit from the exemptions and deductions that the government gives you on tax payments as much as possible. You can engage a competent chartered accountant to help you with that.

However, not paying your taxes and not adhering to the rules of filing your returns is not doing the right thing. Many who get into wealth move out of India for tax havens. These are places where you pay the least or no tax.

The idea is to live in India but not pay taxes here. Any country would have been happy to have Tata as a resident. However, he demonstrated humility in the way he lived. For example, there has never been any discussion ever in the media about where he lived. He led a simple life despite overseeing billions of dollars worth of lifestyle businesses. Professionally, too, you rarely see Tata talking about the wealth of the group market or the size of his businesses.

There is a lot to learn about managing your money from his life. The tax system in India has evolved significantly over the years. The infrastructure in India is changing and will continue to change with the right government policies. That is irrespective of the political party in power. You must do the right thing by creating wealth in legitimate and ethical ways. You must do the right thing by spending your money based on your income, not peer pressure. The balancing act you do in your lifetime on the two heads of income and expenditure will be your tribute to Tata.

MONEY-WISE

RIGHT NOW, GEO-POLITICAL RISK IS THE KEY FACTOR

FINANCIAL ADVICE

ASHOK KUMAR

Head of LKW-India. He can be reached at cedlotus@hotmail.com

(Views expressed here are personal)

SOME years ago, I had commenced with a column titled 'Right Now', which was the title of a popular rock song released three decades ago by the music group, Van Halen. The lyrics of this song proposed living for the moment and not being afraid of making a change. So, in this fortnight's column, I propose to take you, my valued readers, once again on a 'Right Now' journey across our financial markets.

Right now, Indian investors are waking up to the real possibility of an overvalued market correcting its excesses and especially in sub-segments where the run-up was exaggerated. Interestingly, Indian investors have put on a brave front thus far and are not in panic mode despite sensational media headlines predicting doom and gloom.

Right now, the steady exodus of Foreign Institutional Investors to China is gathering steam after a slew of measures by their government to revitalize the economy.

That the valuation of Chinese stocks which were in hibernation since a few years is modest, is not helping India's cause. With this, the one-way FIIs inflows mainly into India could cease, but once valuations in India get trimmed, one can expect reasonable fresh inflows all over again.

Right now, SEBI is proposing a New Product Class whose ticket size will fall between the minimum mandatory amount for a mutual fund and a Portfolio Management Service (PMS). How it shapes up and what kind of investor interest it evokes remains to be seen.

Right now, there is concern that the markets will remain Volatile for a while. It has been a long-touted concern and it is now fructifying. Well, investors will have to live with that reality for a while now and as far as I am concerned, even if it continues, what matters more is how well prepared an investor is to ride the storm.

Right now, there are seasoned market participants doing more than hedging their equity bets with gold. The price of the precious yellow metal continues to surge. And, if the equity markets were to slip further at any time, can there be a further uptick in gold prices? Depending on one's answer to this question, one could either top up the yellow metal or simply sit back and let the growth in value happen on its own sans the deployment of further capital.

Right now, all eyes are on Israel and Iran that appear to be on the path of mutual destruction and the geography of their proposed fight to the finish is the Gulf region, suggesting that Crude Oil prices will remain on the boil. This in turn isn't the best news for an oil importing nation like India.

Furthermore, reports that Israel proposes to strike Iranian nuclear facilities as well as reports that Iran may have conducted a nuclear test recently have an ominous ring to it. One can only hope that better sense will prevail.

IT firm Wipro to consider issuing bonus shares

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @Bengaluru

IT services firm Wipro has said that its Board of Directors will be considering a proposal for issue of bonus shares. The company will be announcing its second quarter FY25 results on October 17.

In a regulatory filing on Sunday, the IT company said, "The Board of Directors of the Company will be considering a proposal for issue of bonus shares, in accordance with the applicable provisions of the Companies Act, 2013 (including the rules and regulations framed thereunder), the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Issue of Capital and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2018, at its meeting scheduled to be held over October 16-17, 2024."

According to analysts, Wipro may guide -1 to +1% QoQ despite improvement in US banking and Capco.

In Q1, Wipro reported a 5.21% increase in consolidated net profit at ₹ 3,003 crore. Its consolidated revenue declined by 3.7% to ₹21,964 crore in the first quarter.

Ola cabs directed to offer refund choices to users

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

THE Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) has directed Ola to implement consumer-friendly changes, including offering refund options and providing receipts for auto rides.

On Sunday, the regulator said it observed that whenever consumer raised any grievance on the Ola app, as part of its no-question-asked refund policy, Ola only provided a coupon code which could be used for the next ride without providing a clear choice to the consumer to opt between a bank account refund or a coupon.

"It was observed that this violates consumer rights and the no-question-asked refund policy cannot mean that the company incentivises people to simply use this facility for taking another ride," it added. Following the CCPA's intervention, Ola has implemented several changes, including displaying contact details of grievance and nodal officers on its website, clearly mentioning cancellation policies and fees at the time of booking, adding more options for ride cancellation reasons, and publicizing fare component breakdowns.

The other changes implemented were showing address of both pickup and drop locations to drivers and revised payment cycles for drivers for swift payment.

The CCPA said that as per information on the National Consumer Helpline, 2,061 complaints have been registered against Ola from January to October 2024, with top issues including overcharging, refund delays and driver-related problems.

"Through its regulatory intervention, the CCPA has been steadfast in ensuring that Ola adheres to the legal framework established to secure the rights of consumers," the regulator said. The move comes as the CCPA increases scrutiny of digital platforms to protect consumer interests.

Hyundai IPO: Should you subscribe?

ARSHAD KHAN @ New Delhi

THE initial public offering (IPO) of Hyundai Motor India Ltd (HMIL), the country's biggest maiden share sale in its capital market history, has received a thumbs up from major brokerages and analysts. Giving a 'subscribe for long-term' rating at large, the street believes HMIL will continue its aggressive growth in the Indian passenger vehicle market and remain ahead of the competition on certain financial metrics.

"If we attribute FY25 annualized super earnings to its post-IPO fully diluted paid-up equity capital, then the asking price is at a P/E of 26.73, and based on FY24 earnings, the P/E stands at 26.28. The issue relatively appears fully priced, but the company is poised for bright prospects post-completion of its ongoing expansions," said analysts at Bajaj Broking while giving a 'subscribe' rating to the IPO with a long-term perspective. Analysts at LKP Securities believe that HMIL is the second best player to play as a proxy to the Indian PV theme, along with market leader Maruti Suzuki. HMIL has about 15% market share on the back of 68% share coming from sports utility vehicles (SUVs) and over 20% share coming from exports. "Its revenues are growing along with the industry in India and have strong return ratios as well. Its EBITDA margins at 13.8% in Q1 FY25 are the best in the industry. The current capacity utilization of HMI's plants is 100%, due to which in the near future the company may not be able to cater to the demand," said LKP. It added the slowdown in the PV industry may augur well for the company, as HMIL is expanding its capacity by 30% in the next 2 to 3 years. Analysts, however, also raised certain concerns such as raw material sourcing, supplier concentration, industry slowdown and an increase in royalty rate to its parent company that may affect HMIL. The ₹27,870 crore IPO will remain open between October 15 and 17. At the upper end of the issue price, HMIL is valued at ₹1.59 lakh crore.

ISSUE DETAILS

Offer Date: October 15 to 17

- Price Band: ₹1,865–1,960 per share
- Total Issue Size: ₹27,870 crore
- Offer For Sale: 14.2 crore shares
- Retail quota: 35%
- QIB quota: 50%
- NII quota: 15%

Limited listing gain

Investors who are expecting to make quick money with the IPO may be left disappointed as listing gains are expected to be limited. In the unofficial grey market, HMIL shares were commanding a premium of just ₹75 or 4%, indicating an estimated listing price of ₹2,035 per share. The GMP was about ₹400 at the start of the month.

"We expect limited listing gains to this IPO; however, expect the company to deliver healthy double-digit portfolio returns over the medium to long term," said brokerage firm ICICI Direct while giving a 'subscribe' rating on the issue on the back of steady growth prospects amid industry tailwinds, robust financials and a healthy SUV product slate. Prashanth Tapse, Senior vice president(Research) at Mehta Equities, underscored that based on annualised FY25E expectations, the issue appears fully priced in, leaving no room for any healthy listing gain.

Meanwhile, Tarun Garg, chief operating officer (COO) at HMIL said that investors should judge them on the quality of growth and continuous innovation in launching not only big products but also small innovations like dual CNG.

"The volumes have been good. We have maintained the number two position with a consistently growing market share...We reported a 13% EBITDA margin in FY24 with a nearly ₹70,000 crore revenue. The value proposition Hyundai Motor India has always offered is because of its strong parentage and the robust connection we have with Indian customers. This puts us in a strong position to do well," added Garg.

Sinner beats Djokovic to win Shanghai Masters

Top-ranked Jannik Sinner beat Novak Djokovic in straight sets to win the Shanghai Masters on Sunday, giving the Italian his tour-leading seventh title of the season. The Italian bettered the 24-time Grand Slam champion 7-6 (4), 6-3 in an hour and 37 minutes and never faced a break point in the outdoor hard-court tournament.

CAUGHT SHORT IN DESERT

India lose to Oz by 9 runs in Sharjah, rely on result of NZ vs Pak to qualify for semifinals

Captain Harmanpreet Kaur's (C) fifty was not enough as the Women in Blue failed to chase 152 vs Australia on Sunday | AP

THEY say if you enjoy cricket, you perform better. At least a lot of cricketers will tell you, in person or in general, that they feel a good performance is just round the corner if they are enjoying their game. No one has been able to put what that enjoyment of the game actually means but as always there is an exception. Grace Margaret Harris.

For those who don't know, Harris bats for Australia, wherever required. She bowls for Australia, whenever required. And in the field, she doesn't necessarily have a preferred position. She would stand wherever her captain wants her, clapping every fielding effort or a good bowl her teammate has bowled. When mic'd up, as she often is in the domestic league all over the world, Harris even comments on her own game. Nothing really changes. She continues enjoying her game.

At Sharjah Cricket Ground on Sunday, in front of the packed house and against one of their toughest opposition, Harris did exactly that. She just enjoyed who she is. With captain Australia being hit with twin injuries in their fixture against Pakistan in captain Alyssa Healy and pacer Tayla Vlaeminvk, a few changes became a necessity. With Healy being the regular opener for the team, Australia needed a backup opener. Harris stepped in with Beth Mooney to take the charge. And she got going straight away. The second ball of the innings from Renuka Singh Thakur, wide outside off at that, reached the boundary in a flash. While her batting partner at the other end, Beth Mooney, looked tentative in her defence and below par in her attack, Harris was having none of it. Even when her team lost two back-to-back wickets in the same Thakur over, inside the powerplay, Harris just stood there. Sometimes vibing with the music going around , but most of the time, focused on the task at hand. One she was joined by stand-in captain Tahlia McGrath, the jobat hand was to stabilise the innings instead of going gung-ho. Harris took her find, but punished slightest of mistakes. For Shreyanka Patil's tossed up delivery from outside off, Harris got down on a knee to slog it behind square on the leg side and her running between the wickets was as immaculate as it could be. Reintroduction of Pooja Vastrakar's pace only made sure that the duo got the opportunity to hit and score a few quick runs. Of course she got multiple opportunities to accelerate her scoring rate as India dropped as many as three chances to send her back to the pavilion. After the drinks break, when Australia clearly looked to accelerate the scoring rate, McGrath perished. Even then, Harris was singing in her own rhythm as she smashed Reddy for two boundaries in an over. Even when she eventually got out after making 40 off 40 balls, Harris had done her job. Australia went on to score 151 runs in the first innings.

India's captain Harmanpreet Kaur fought with all her might like she has done on many occasions against the same team in the past. Her second half-century of the tournament came off 44 balls, but it was not enough to take her team over the line. India's hopes are up in the air as of now. they would want New Zealand to lose against Pakistan at the Dubai International Stadium to have that glimmer of hope to make it to the semi-final. 'Can we go back? This is the moment. Tonight is the night, we'll fight 'til it's over. So we put our hands up.' Ground DJ kept suggesting to the India team, but alas Australia just Grace'd it. **Brief scores:** Australia 151/8 in 20 ovs (Harris 40, Tahlia 32, Perry 32; Renuka 2/24) **bt** India 142/9 in 20 ovs (Kaur 54 n.o; Sophie 2/32).

THE IFs AND BUTs OF NZ VS PAK

- If NZ beat Pakistan, they qualify for semifinals
- If Pak beat NZ by 53 or more runs, they advance. If Pak chase, they will around 63 or more balls to spare to qualify
- If Pak beat NZ by less than 53 runs, India qualify

MAKE OR BREAK TIE

As we enter the business end of the tournament, a look at the all-important clash between White Ferns and Pakistan from Group A...

NEW ZEALAND'S LAST HOPE

The White Ferns have not made it to the semi-final of the T20 World Cup since 2018 and this is their opportunity to do so against Pakistan. It is a must-win clash, but the good thing is that they know exactly what will be required off them come Monday evening.

FATIMA IS BACK

After leaving for Karachi after her father's death, Fatima Sana has returned to join the Pakistan camp ahead of their final clash, despite her team's campaign getting over in the World Cup. After a huge loss against Australia, her return could prove as a boost to the side that has struggled to win matches.

TODAY'S MATCH: New Zealand vs Pakistan, Dubai ● Live on Star Sports and Hotstar, 7.30 PM

Growing sports fandom in Australia, one tee at a time

KALYANI MANGALE @ Sharjah

IN a video posted by Cricket Australia a few months ago, a few young fans got the chance to interact with the vice-captain Tahlia McGrath. One of the young fans was wearing a t-shirt that said 'Caught Healy, Bowled Perry, Forever.' "Oh, that's a nice one," McGrath complimented the young fan. "I got it for Christmas," the young fan replied, beaming ear to ear.

For Anthony, the mastermind behind these T-shirts and 'League Tees', a website that creates these t-shirts, this is something very close to his heart. "It's hugely humbling," he told this daily. "If League Tees lets people be themselves and represent who they are, then that makes me very happy. I try and make as many suggestions as I can, but because the whole art department is basically just me it sometimes takes a while. It's a small pipeline," he added.

When asked about how it all started, Anthony has no elaborate answer. It is something he felt like doing and in true 'Aussie spirit' he just did it. "I just started doing it. Sorry, not to have a better answer," he says cheekily. "I'd draw up designs and get them made by online print fulfilment companies. It wasn't much of a business because you're giving away your artwork to these platforms and volunteering to do all the sales and promotion for free. The margins are pretty measly. But it did give me a chance to test out ideas and start building a fan base. Over the years, it's just grown gradually to the point where I'm able to print everything myself and have full control over product quality. But there's still not much of a plan for it all. If I like it and think someone would like to wear it then I'll draw it," Anthony said.

Anthony and League Tees' entry into women's sport came out of the off-the-field moment in the Australian Football League Women's League. "I think the first shirt was a picture of AFLW GWS Giants player Pepa Randall iconically eating a burrito during a post-match interview. It was a bit random, but part of the fun is being able to play off these mini moments and create something that makes them last. The Giants even bought a bunch of tees for their players and put out a video about it. That was a big moment for us."

When it came to women's cricket, Anthony needed some outside push and it came from one of the fan pages of the Australian team named — Australia Women's Cricket With Very Little Context. "It was our 'Healy-Perry Forever' shirt. The story was that they asked us to make it," Anthony says. "It was just something we discussed and thought it would be a good idea to approach him," Mrinal Asija, who is associated with the X handle, told this daily. "We saw many sports and teams were getting their tees and thought why not celebrate our team through it? He was very generous with designs and made it happen. When I see fans wear those tees to matches I feel so proud that we could play a small role. The best thing for me is that both Midge (Healy) and Pez (Perry) have seen it and they loved it. It is pretty special."

Full story: newindianexpress.com

ENGLAND CRUSH SCOTLAND

Openers Maia Bouchier and Danni Wyatt-Hodge put on an unbeaten century partnership as England hammered debutants Scotland by 10 wickets. After restricting Scotland to 109-6 in 20 overs, England romped home with 10 overs to spare as Bouchier hit 62 off 34 deliveries, earning herself player of the match honours as her team closed in on a semifinal spot.

HIL auctions: Harmanpreet most expensive player on Day 1

AGENCIES @ New Delhi

DOUBLE Olympic bronze medallist, Harmanpreet Singh, was bagged by Soorma Hockey Club for ₹78 lakh on Day One of the Hockey India League auction here on Sunday. Singh, the national team skipper and one of India's biggest hockey stars, was expected to command a big fee and that proved to be the case after the Sardar Singh-coached SHC signed the defender for the big bucks.

The engimatic alll-action midfielder, Hardik Singh was another Indian player who went for the big bucks as he was acquired by UP Rudras for ₹70 lakh. The in demand Abhishek, who has come up by leaps and bounds over the last 18 months, was snapped by Bengal Tigers for ₹72 lakh.

On a day when there were some curious decisions — Australia's Andrew Charter went unsold — the one unmistakable theme was the intent of the eight franchises when it came to buying India's Olympic stars. Some of the other big money signings included Amit Rohidas (Tamil Nadu Dragons; ₹48 lakh), Jugraj Singh (Bengal ₹48 lakh) and Sumit (Hyderabad Toofans; ₹46 lakh). The HIL will return to TV screens later this year a seven-year absence.

High-profile contest

New Zealand stand between India and a 19th consecutive home Test series win. A look at the upcoming three-match series, with the first Test scheduled to begin at Bengaluru on Wednesday...

Three more wins to guarantee WTC final spot

While India's glamour assignment this winter is that five-match series Down Under, from a big picture point of view, the hosts can rubber-stamp their spot in next year's WTC final as long as they win all three Tests. NZ can be tricky opponents but the manner in which they went down to Sri Lanka in a two-match series doesn't bode well for them.

Left-arm spinners galore

There was a time when left-arm spinners used to be a novelty. Not anymore. All teams have at least one left-spinner. In this series, the right-arm spinner will be an endangered species as many as six left-arm tweakers could be on display in any given Test.

Weather in Bengaluru a concern

The upcoming LPA is threatening North Tamil Nadu coast over the next few days. Such a scenario may spell bad news as a more westward movement could bring copious amounts of rainfall during the first Test. The forecast, as it stands, is a wet start to the Test.

SCHEDULE

- October 16-20 **1st Test** Bengaluru
- October 24-28 **2nd Test** Pune
- November 1-5 **3rd Test** Mumbai

Bowlers put TN in command on a rain-hit day

ENS/AGENCIES

CHETESHWAR Pujara endured a six-ball duck as Saurashtra were left reeling at 35/5, trailing by 129 runs in the second innings with Tamil Nadu taking complete command of their Ranji Trophy Group D clash in Coimbatore.

On the third day of the season-opener, Tamil Nadu's left-arm pacer Gurjapneet Singh ran riot in the Saurashtra ranks, returning 9-5-7-4 as the visitors were left staring at a huge task at the close of play.

Saurashtra conceded a massive first-innings lead of 164 as TN folded for 367 after resuming at 278/3 against the visitor's 203. Javdev Unadkat returned 6/61 from his 24 overs. Gurjapneet's victims included Pujara, who made 16 in the first essay, as the out-of-favour India batter was trapped in front of the wickets in the second innings. Arpit Vasavada (15 not out) and Sheldon Jackson (5 not out) were at the crease. In another match, Delhi took a slender lead of 14 runs in the first innings but Chhattisgarh edged ahead, reaching 33 for no loss to move ahead by 19 runs at stumps on the third day. While skipper Himmat Singh made 65 (123 balls 8x4s, 1x6s), it was Jonty Sidhu's 170-ball 103 not out (11 fours, 2 sixes) which gave Delhi a slight advantage.

In Indore, after two got called off completely, Madhya Pradesh consolidated to finish day three at 425/8 against Karnataka. Skipper Shubham Sharma remained unbeaten on 143 while Harpreet Singh scored 91.

Meanwhile, after dismissing Kerala for 179, Punjab lost three early wickets despite gaining a slender lead. Mayank Markande took six wickets to hand Punjab the first innings lead, but Kerala kept at it, taking three early wickets. At stumps, Punjab were 23/3.

Andhra, chasing 318, finished day three on 79/1 against Vidarbha with Hanuma Vihari back in the pavilion. Having gotten out for 167 in the first innings, Andhra conceded 366 in the third with opener Atharva Taide scoring a century for Vidarbha (118). A Mokhade (53), Danish Malewar (61) scored fifties to set the tone for Vidarbha. Andhra need 239 runs to win on the final day.

Vidarbha's Aditya Thakare being bowled out against Andhra on day three | PTI

SELECT SCORES

Gujarat 343 & 201 vs Hyderabad 248; Vidarbha 118 & 366 vs Andhra 167 & 79/1 in 21 ovs; Madhya Pradesh 425/8; 140 ovs (Shubham 143 batting, Harpreet 91, Saransh 51; Koushik 2/78, Vyshak 2/83, Hardik 2/79); Punjab 194 vs Kerala 179 in 70.4 ovs (Mayank Markande 6/59, Gurnoor Brar 3/18); Saurashtra 203 & 35/5 in 25 ovs (Arpit Vasavada 15 n.o, Gurjapneet 4/7) vs Tamil Nadu 367 in 121.3 ovs (B Sai Sudharsan 82, N Jagadeesan 100; Unadkat 6/61); Chhattisgarh 343 & 33/0 in 8 ovs (Ayush Pandey 22 n.o) vs Delhi 357 in 116.2 ovs (Jonty Sidhu 103 n.o; Ajay Mandal 3/101, Ashish Chouhan 3/53).

EXPRESS READ

ISSF WC: Shooters seek happy home run

NEW DELHI: The absence of the Paris Olympic medallists notwithstanding, hosts India will not be short on firepower when they compete in the season-ending World Cup Final, starting here from Tuesday, with Rhythm Sangwan headlining a 23-member squad. The Paris Olympics medallists automatically qualify for the tournament, but Manu Bhaker, Sarabjot Singh and Swapnil Kusale have opted to skip the event.

Jayawardene returns to MI as head coach

MUMBAI: Five-time IPL champions Mumbai Indians have roped in former Sri Lanka captain Mahela Jayawardene as their head coach as part of a major overhaul ahead of mega auction. Jayawardene has had a similar role with the franchise from 2017-2022 and oversaw their title-winning campaigns in 2017, 2019 and 2020-21. Jayawardene replaced former South African keeper Mark Boucher who had a two-year stint as MI's head coach.

FIDE Rating Open Chess: Shraddha in Rd4

MUMBAI: Shraddha Padvekar (3 points) defeated Woman Candidate Master Kriti Patel (2 points) in a third-round match of the All India FIDE Rating Open Chess Tournament here on Sunday. The Palghar-based Shraddha (rating 1588) started with the English opening, while Kirti (1829) opted for a neo-Catalan defence in their contest. Shraddha was able to come out on top against Kirti to win in 63 moves on the sixth board.

India clinch three medals at Asian Championships

AGENCIES @ Astana (Kazakhstan)

INDIA wrapped up their campaign at the Asian Table Tennis Championships with three medals, including a historic bronze in the women's doubles, after Ayhika Mukherjee and Sutirtha Mukherjee's dream run ended in the semifinals here on Sunday. The world No. 15 pair, who stunned the reigning world champions from China en route to a bronze at the Asian Games last year, fell to Japan's Miwa Harimoto and Miyuu Kihara, 4-11 9-11 8-11. Prior to that, the Indian duo had defeated South Korea's Kim Nayeong and Lee Eunhye in the quarterfinals to secure India's first-ever women's doubles medal at the Asian meet. The trio of Manika Batra, Ayhika Mukherjee, and Sutirtha Mukherjee — secured the country's first-ever medal in the women's team category since the competition began in 1972, though they eventually lost 1-3 to Japan in the semifinals.

Ronaldo scores again for perfect Portugal in Nations League

AGENCIES @ Barcelona

CRISTIANO Ronaldo scored his record-extending 133rd international goal to keep Portugal perfect in the Nations League with a 3-1 win over Poland on Saturday, and Spain struck late to edge Denmark 1-0. The 39-year-old superstar was there to put in the rebound after Rafael Leao's shot hit the post in the 37th minute. That made it 2-0 following Bernardo Silva's opener in Warsaw in the 26th.

After failing to find the net in his five appearances at this summer's European Championship — with Portugal exiting in the quarterfinals — Ronaldo has scored in three straight Nations League matches, including in wins over Croatia — his 900th career goal — and Scotland last month. Portugal coach Roberto Martínez replaced Ronaldo with Diogo Jota with just under half an hour to play. Midfielder Piotr Zielinski halved the deficit in the 78th for the hosts, only for Southampton defender Jan Bednarek to score an own-goal with two minutes left. Barcelona striker Robert Lewandowski started alongside Karol Swiderski but the Polish attacking pair couldn't find their way past the Portuguese defense. "We worked very hard the last few days, preparing various solutions for this game, and we were able to show it on the pitch. I am really satisfied because we controlled this game," Martinez said.

Spain's Martín Zubimendi (L) celebrates with teammates after scoring vs Denmark | AP

Portugal lead Group A1 with nine points from three games. Second-place Croatia has six points after they came back to beat Scotland 2-1 in Zagreb with the visitors having an equalizer deep into second-half stoppage time ruled out by VAR. Poland have three points while Scotland are yet to open account.

Zubimendi shines

Martin Zubimendi helped Spain crack Denmark's defense as the holding midfielder starred in place of injured Rodri. The Real Sociedad player unleashed a powerful volley in the 79th to smash a rebound from outside the area past Kasper Schmeichel, who got his hand on the ball but couldn't keep it out. In Group F, England beat Finland 3-1 on Sunday. Jack Grealish, Trent Alexander-Arnold and Declan Rice score for the Three Lions.

UPCOMING EXAMINATIONS

RBI GRADE B 2024 MAINS	IBPS PO 2024 PRELIMS EXAM	NABARD GRADE A 2024 MAINS
Date: October 19 & 26, 2024	Date: October 19 & 20, 2024	Date: October 20, 2024

So, on to the first section that we are going to tackle: Verbal Ability and Reading Comprehension of the Common Aptitude Test (CAT). Lakshmy Menon, General Manager (Academics), T.I.M.E, a test prep institute, tells us all about it

MASTERING CAT'S VARC SECTION

STRATEGIES | INSIGHTS | PREPARATION TIPS

Dissecting VARC

THE Verbal Ability and Reading Comprehension (VARC) section is often considered the "make-it-or-break-it" section of the Common Admission Test (CAT) for Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs) — and for good reason. Recent trends reveal that the VARC section holds a slight edge over the other sections in terms of scalability. Moreover, this section has the highest number of questions in CAT (24 out of 76). Thus, a candidate who is well-prepared to handle this section can expect to have an overall strategic advantage in the examination.

Overview of the VARC section

The pattern of CAT has undergone several rounds of transformation over the years. In the current pattern, the VARC section has two components: reading comprehension and paragraph-based verbal reasoning.

READING COMPREHENSION

Of late, this section includes 16 questions, typically presented as four passages with four questions each. The passages are around 500 words long and span a diverse range of subjects such as sociology, political science, history, culture, psychology, literature, science, technology, media, and management. A distinct feature of CAT reading comprehension is the emphasis on critical reasoning skills. Questions are designed to test concepts such as inference, assumption, conclusion, author's purpose and strengthening and weakening of arguments. All reading comprehension questions are given as multiple-choice questions (MCQs), with 3 marks for each correct answer and a penalty of 1 mark for each incorrect answer.

VERBAL ABILITY

THIS SUBSECTION PRIMARILY TESTS THE CANDIDATE'S GRASP OF THE LOGICAL STRUCTURE AND IDEA FLOW OF PASSAGES. THIS SUBSECTION CONSISTS OF EIGHT QUESTIONS, AS SEEN IN THE RECENT CATS, WHICH MAY INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING TYPES

Para formation: Four sentences are presented in random order. They need to be arranged in the correct sequence to form a logically coherent paragraph.

Odd man out: Five sentences are presented in random order. The task is to identify the sentence that does not fit within a logically coherent paragraph.

Summary: A short paragraph is given, followed by four alternative summaries. The candidate needs to identify the summary which best captures the author's position and the essence of the passage.

Paragraph completion: A sentence is provided along with a short paragraph with four blanks. The candidate must determine where the given sentence fits. In another variation, a paragraph with a blank is presented, and the candidate must choose the most appropriate sentence from four options to complete the paragraph.

A few questions in the Verbal Ability section are multiple-choice questions with negative marking, while others require the answers to be typed. The latter type does not have any negative marking.

EXPRESS ILLUSTRATION

Essential questions

ANY LINGERING DOUBTS BOTHERING YOU? LET'S ADDRESS THEM

How much time should be dedicated to preparation for this section?
It depends on your current level of preparedness — which might not necessarily correlate with how fluent you are in English! The VARC section primarily tests your verbal reasoning skills — not how fluent you are with the language.

What would be a good starting time for prep?
A good starting point is to take mock tests, such as All India Mock CATs (AIMCATs) offered by T.I.M.E., to accurately assess your strengths and weaknesses and prepare a customised preparation plan.

Is it true that VARC requires long-term planning and preparation?
Being an avid reader with a broad interest in various subjects provides an undeniable advantage.

If you have not been a regular reader, start exploring different topics well ahead of the CAT. You may want to work on your vocabulary and basic grammar concepts.

What if there is not much time left to prepare?
Study the CAT pattern thoroughly to identify areas for improvement. Set a timetable, read a few articles daily, and spend a few minutes learning new words.

What is a common mistake candidates often make in this section?
Assuming they need to maximise the number of questions attempted to achieve a high score. This assumption is rarely true in a highly competitive exam with negative marking. Strategy is essential in this context.

Tell us about the section's weightage and strategy.
Remember that typically, you only need to score around 50-60% (depending on the difficulty level) in this section to reach the 99th percentile! Therefore, it's crucial to select questions wisely. Once you decide to attempt a question, focus on it and take the time to carefully evaluate the options.

How does one ace time management for reading comprehension?
Many candidates fall into the trap of repeatedly reading passages in an attempt to memorise every detail. However, this approach often backfires.

Success in RC entails a balancing act. Aim to skim through the passage in 2-2.5 minutes, focusing on grasping the central idea of each paragraph.

How do students decide if they should attempt the question or skip it?
For each question, check whether you can easily eliminate at least two options. If you find it difficult, consider skipping that question or marking it for review.

Once you've narrowed down the choices, revisit the relevant part of the passage and carefully compare each remaining option.

Look for distortions, omissions, or other clues that may help you eliminate one of the options. If you're still unsure, it's best not to waste any more time on that question.

As a general guideline, aim to spend no more than 8-10 minutes on a single RC set.

What are the best books or study materials to master the section?
Free online resources like Aeon Ideas and Arts & Letters Daily provide access to the kinds of passages that often appear in the exam. Reading newspaper editorials is beneficial, as it helps you identify and understand the author's perspective.

For vocabulary building, *Word Power Made Easy* by Norman Lewis is a useful resource.

Does VARC truly require long-term preparation? The answer is both yes and no. Being an avid reader with a broad interest does provide an advantage

— Lakshmy Menon, General Manager (Academics), T.I.M.E.

Common Pitfalls to Avoid

Here are some common mistakes you must avoid making

- Assuming that an excellent command of the English language is essential/sufficient for cracking the VARC section
- Attempting RC questions without reading the passage first
- Spending too much time reading the passage and then rushing with the questions
- Not being selective about attempts
- Failing to identify and leave confusing questions
- Applying external knowledge or assumptions in answering RC questions, without understanding the author's perspective
- Falling for 'trap' options
- Not revisiting the passage to compare options, especially when they are confusing
- Attempting all the VA questions which do not have negative marks, without ensuring accuracy

To conclude, the key to success in the VARC section is consistent practice through mock tests and thorough analysis and tracking of your performance. This will enable you to evolve a test-taking strategy that is customised, yet flexible enough to handle the vicissitudes of CAT.

AS AN ASPIRANT, IS THE VARC SECTION PROVING TO BE PARTICULARLY CHALLENGING? LET'S SEE HOW ASPIRANTS WHO CLEARED CAT PREPARED FOR IT

EXCELLING AT VARC

Ramesh Sundaram, IIM Lucknow

The VARC section of the CAT has become increasingly challenging for aspirants due to its growing difficulty in recent years. With no clearly defined syllabus, students often find it difficult to develop an effective preparation strategy to conquer this section. The VARC section aims to evaluate a candidate's critical reasoning and reading comprehension skills, which are vital for decision-making, problem-solving, and strategic thinking in the business world. Therefore, developing strong critical reasoning skills and mastering the art of active reading are essential for excelling in this section. Preparing for the VARC section involves two key aspects: First, developing technical competencies to solve reading comprehension and verbal ability questions, and second, mastering test-taking strategies and time management skills. I have found the GMAT Official Guide Verbal Review to be an excellent starting point for beginners, as it outlines effective strategies for mastering critical reasoning and tackling reading comprehension passages. It is also crucial for students to develop familiarity with reading articles on diverse topics like science, economics, and philosophy. Reading articles from Aeon and Psyche every day was key to my preparation. During my three-year preparation journey, I found that taking mock exams is key to developing effective test-taking strategies and time management skills. Additionally, the video solutions of mocks provide insights into the teacher's approach towards analysing information and problem-solving. Aspirants should focus on achieving incremental improvement in their VARC skills through consistent practice. Through perseverance, I believe candidates from any background can excel in the VARC section.

Adharam Varshini, IIM Lucknow

The VARC (Verbal Ability and Reading Comprehension) section of the CAT examination is recognised for its critical role in shaping aspirants' future. While a few candidates find it intuitive, others face challenges, primarily influenced by their reading experiences and educational backgrounds.

My preparation journey, which began in June 2022, emphasised the importance of reading comprehension. This section typically comprises four passages and a total of sixteen questions, covering diverse topics such as technology, sociology, and history. The writing styles encountered range from personal diary entries to analytical opinion pieces. Resources like Arun Sharma's VARC book have been invaluable in navigating these complexities.

Regular reading of leading newspapers has greatly enhanced my comprehension skills, allowing me to connect various contexts effectively. Additionally, the Verbal Ability component, which includes para-jumbles, para-summaries, and odd-one-out questions, demands a solid command of reading techniques. Consistent practice is crucial not only for excelling in the CAT examination but also for the subsequent challenges encountered during MBA studies. Ultimately, mastering the VARC section equips aspirants with essential skills for academic success and future career opportunities.

How best to combat this section?

TACKLING VARC

THE VARC section of CAT plays a crucial role as it not only tests language skills but also assesses your ability to understand, evaluate, and interpret complex information — skills that are directly relevant in managerial roles. Many aspirants focus more on quantitative and reasoning sections, but underestimating VARC can lead to an unbalanced score, making it harder to clear sectional cut-offs.

One key strategy is to master active reading. This means, while reading a passage, consciously engage with it — ask yourself questions like "What is the core argument?" or "How does this paragraph connect to the previous one?" By doing so, you build a mental map of the passage, making it easier to answer questions about tone, structure, or inference.

In the Verbal Ability part, focus on recognising logical flow. Every sentence has clues — transitional words, reference pronouns, or context-specific terms — that can guide you in piecing together the correct sequence. For instance, words like "however" or "therefore" can signal shifts in argument, helping you anchor the beginning or end of a paragraph.

Also, make sure to build a habit of timed reading practice. Use shorter articles to begin with and gradually move to more dense material, keeping track of comprehension speed. This also brings you knowledge – and discipline in your life. I, for example, make sure to read 20 pages of any book — every single day. It gives me ideas, helps me learn new things, and also allows me to travel and meet people — page by page. Additionally, when you make reading a habit, it not only boosts your writing efficiency but also trains you to grasp the crux of even the trickiest content in a limited timeframe, setting you up for a strong performance in VARC.

PROF HIMANSHU RAI,
Director, Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Indore

— Compiled by Harsha Tallapragada and Saumyangi Yadav

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MONDAY

DAY'S DIARY

King Jr wins Nobel

The Nobel Peace Prize was awarded to the Martin Luther King Jr on this day in 1964 for his non-violent resistance to racial prejudice

YOUNGEST WINNER

At 35 years of age, the Georgia-born minister was the youngest person ever to receive the award. He donated the prize amount of $54,600 to the civil rights movement

CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT

Influenced by Gandhi, he led peaceful protests in the American South. While they were met with violence, King and his followers persisted

'I HAVE A DREAM'

In 1963, at Lincoln Memorial in Washington, DC, as a symbol of democracy and freedom, King delivered his famous speech "I have a dream"

A Backpacking Diplomat

PG 3

STICK SHIFT

Salima Tete, who has taken over the captaincy of the women's hockey team from veteran goalkeeper Savita Punia, on India's bid to defend their Asian Champions Trophy title after narrowly missing out on an Olympic berth...

DESE GOWDA

FOR elite Indian Hockey, 2024 has been a mixed bag of fortunes. While the men's team managed to bag a bronze medal at the Summer Olympics earlier this year, the women's team has been met with one disappointment after another. Despite their dominance at the 2023 Asian Champions Trophy, the team narrowly missed out on an Olympic berth at both the 2023 Asian Games and the 2024 FIH Olympic Qualifiers. Now, as they prepare to defend their title at the 2024 edition of the Asian Champions Trophy, to be held once again in India, with midfielder Salima Tete taking over the captaincy from veteran goalkeeper Savita Punia, the squad – currently training in Bengaluru – is determined to show their resilience in front of home fans and regain momentum on the international stage.

One of the most successful teams in the tournament alongside South Korea, with two titles each, for captain Tete, India's focus remains clear. "As captain, I always make sure to keep motivating the team," she says. "We have complete freedom on the pitch, so there is no need to feel pressured. Just play to your strengths. Regarding Paris [Olympics], we definitely still feel some pain. But we have to move on."

The team's inability to qualify for the Olympics was especially painful given their impressive fourth-place finish at Tokyo three years ago, but Punia believes these experiences have only made the team stronger. "We know what our strengths are; it's our aggressive attacking style of play," she explains. "We are also focusing on learning how to effectively organise a defence; how to manage counter-control. Apart from that, penalty corner attack and defence are also a priority."

> *We have complete freedom on the pitch, so there is no need to feel pressured... Regarding Paris [Olympics], we definitely still feel some pain. But we have to move on*
>
> – Salima Tete, captain

Her only advice to her younger teammates is to prepare with the same mindset as they would have on the field. "The mindset with which you prepare is what you're going to find in the actual games," Punia says. "It's not like we only put on a game mindset during a tournament; it should be there even when we are preparing. The young players these days are quite intelligent in how they approach the game, they are quick learners. However, the pressure when you're in, let's say, a quarter-final or a semi-final can be immense. I learned it from experience, but I try to also impart it to the younger players as much as possible. Pressure is constant; it's just our approach that matters."

This year's tournament will be held in Rajgir in Bihar, and playing in front of home fans is something that both Tete and Punia believe will give the team a lift. "Having the tournament on your home turf is a fantastic thing," says Punia. "This is the second year that India is hosting the Asian Champions Trophy. The last time was in Ranchi, Jharkhand. When we played there, we saw how much the fans cared about the game, so definitely we'll have a lot of support this time around."

Meanwhile, as she steps into the captain's role, Tete opens up about balancing leadership with her role as a midfielder. "Results don't matter, but my focus is to keep everyone working together in tough situations. If we can do that, we will definitely win," she adds. Tete has also focused on mentoring younger players who are stepping into their first major international tournament. "I will spend some time with them, tell them not to take any pressure and to enjoy themselves as they are going to play their first major tournament. It is a memory they will cherish for a long time. We all will be there to help them if they slip up on the pitch. They should just go out and enjoy the game," she shares.

As India prepares for the 2024 Women's Asian Champions Trophy, they are aiming not just to defend their title but also to rebuild their confidence after a challenging year. "We've known well what [Coach Harendra Singh] expects from the team and also individually from players. I hope for all the effort he's putting in training us, we'll be able to translate it with success on the field," says Punia.

Folk Funk

Popular Estonian 'zombie-folk' or 'nu-folk' duo, Puuluup, is performing in B'luru for the first time, featuring an eclectic mix of traditional folk sounds with electronic and punk beats

MAHIMA NAGARAJU

WHEN stage lights illuminate two middle-aged men sitting in chairs wearing black suits and holding an unfamiliar stringed instrument, most people would expect a sombre classical performance. Instead, Marko Veisson and Ramo Teder jump around the stage, moving their arms around to a signature choreography that is popular among everyone from Estonian kindergartners to adults. Veisson says, "When the audience sees us, they think it is going to be very serious. But it's not. In our live shows, we play ironically with our ideas. We play with contrasts, so the look is rather conservative but when the show starts it's very playful. So the audience should be ready to dance!" On Sunday they took to the stage at the Indian Music Experience Museum for their debut performance in the city. Today, they will be performing at the Bangalore International Centre.

The duo plays the Talharpa, an Estonian folk instrument that nearly died out in the early twentieth century following conservative campaigns against it. Combining the distinctive droning sounds of this instrument with an electronic looping station produces Puuluup's signature folk meets electro-punk sound that they like to call 'zombie folk'. "In the 1980s a few enthusiasts started to revive this tradition. When somebody has been dead but wakes up again and acts a little bit strangely... that's why we call it zombie-folk," says Veisson.

Their shared love for the instrument is what brought the duo together. "Ramo and I happened to see somebody playing the instrument and were enchanted by the sound. It was something we've never experienced, seen or heard before," says Veisson, who was teaching social sciences at a college when he heard a band playing Talharpa and asked around if someone could teach him. "At that time there were only about 10 people in Estonia who played it," he says. The band made it to the finals of the Eurovision Song Contest earlier this year, introducing this rare instrument on a global stage. Puuluup's process of making music is as spontaneous as their performance, with songs often evolving from improvisation between the duo. The lyrics too are whimsical, with a focus on creating interesting soundscapes and letting the audience's imaginations run wild. Some of the songs are written in a language created by Marko and others in a mix of Estonian, Finnish and Russian.

With this being their first visit to the city, Veisson hopes to get to know Bengaluru better. "We are very much looking forward to seeing Bengaluru. We will spend a few days here so I really hope that the audience will recommend something to do. It's always better to ask from locals!" he shares.

Puuluup will be performing at Bangalore International Centre today. For details, visit bangaloreinternationalcentre.org

CITY READ

Bank observes Vigilance Awareness Week

The Bank of India formed a human chain on KG Road as a part of Vigilance Awareness Week to raise public awareness about online fraud. The event was carried out under the guidance of Zonal Manager, Anita R Nair and Deputy Zonal Manager, Operations Roja Ramani. Additionally, workshops and quiz competitions were also conducted in schools and colleges across the city to raise awareness among young Bengalureans.

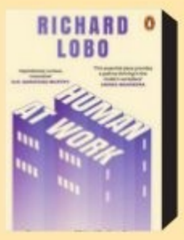
Malaika Arora inaugurates luxury salon

Bollywood actor-turned-producer **Malaika Arora** inaugurated an outlet of the luxury salon, Page3 at Forum South Mall, Kanakapura Rd recently. The salon boasts luxury features and premium brands aimed at transforming the experience of a growing number of beauty-conscious customers. A beauty pageant was also held to mark the occasion with over 500 aspiring models from the city competing. "I'm thrilled to be the brand ambassador. The commitment to creativity and self-expression resonates with me deeply, and I love how they empower individuals to feel their best," said Arora.

Pop-up brings Spanish cuisine to city

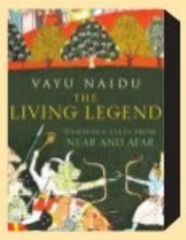
Alba, the Italian restaurant at JW Marriott Hotel Bengaluru, Vittal Mallya Road is set to host a special pop-up with Chef Manuel Olveira from the Mumbai-based restaurant La Loca Maria on October 18 and 19 from 7pm onwards. The pop-up features a nine-course vegetarian and non-vegetarian menu curated by Chef Olveira showcasing reimagined Spanish delicacies, including cherry gazpacho, ceviche, beetroot & BFF carpaccio, Spanish-style flatbreads, and his signature desserts. The menu is priced at ₹5,500 per person. For reservations, contact 88844 94038.

BOOK NOOK



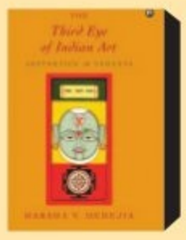
Human at Work
By Richard Lobo

It is a journey through the challenges of the modern workplace, from navigating economic uncertainties to adapting to new workplace dynamics.



The Living Legend
By Vayu Naidu

Timeless saga of Rama, Sita, and Lakshmana. Set in the mysterious Dandaka Forest, the book highlights the far-reaching influence of the Sita-Rama story across South and East Asia.



The Third eye of Indian Art: Aesthetics as Vedanta
By Harsha V. Dehejia

It takes us on an enchanting and blissful aesthetic experience showing us how to use the third eye to not only recognize and celebrate what is objectively beautiful, but to rest in the inner, subjective, serene state of beauty.

Friends: India's Closest Strategic Partners
By Sreeram Chaulia

A one-of-a-kind book on foreign policy and geopolitics that offers readers answers to questions which are key to determining India's future trajectory in international affairs.

BACK IN TIME

Visitors explore artworks of Gandhian artist Saraladevi Mazumdar on display at the Karnataka Chitrakala Parishath, Kumara Krupa Road | NAGARAJA GADEKAL

QUICKFIX

VEGGIE QUESADILLA

INGREDIENTS

- **Cabbage (cut in thin stance):** 1/2
- **Carrot:** 1
- **Capsicum (cut in Julian's):** 1
- **Corn:** 1/2 cup
- **Cheese:** 2 cubes
- **Chilli flakes:** 1tsp
- **Salt:** 1 tsp
- **Roti:** 2

METHOD

- Cut all the veggies and put them in a bowl.
- Then add cheese, chilli flakes and salt to it.
- Take a roti and place the filling on one side. Then fold the roti.
- Fry these in butter.
- Serve hot and enjoy.

Contributed by **Shifra Alina**, Hyderabad

DR VIVEK ARORA

The expert is a senior veterinarian, Dr Gandhi's Pet Clinic, Delhi

Rabbits can develop dental problems like elongated incisors, root abscesses, and gum infections if they don't have a proper diet. What according to you is a proper diet for a three-year-old female rabbit?

A proper diet for a three-year-old female rabbit includes unlimited high-fiber hay (like Timothy Hay) to aid digestion and dental health, fresh leafy greens (such as romaine lettuce, kale, and parsley), and a small amount of rabbit pellets fortified with essential nutrients. Avoid high-calcium vegetables and fruits. Ensure access to fresh water daily and monitor her weight to prevent obesity. This diet helps prevent dental issues and supports overall health.

ASK AN XPERT

EXPRESS CONNECT

HAVE A RECIPE OR ART WORK TO SHARE, OR A QUESTION TO ASK?

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bengalurucityexpress@gmail.com

@xpress_bengaluru

FITBIT

SALABHASANA PALMS FLOOR
(LOCUST POSE PALMS FLOOR)

This is a prone position beginner-level yoga pose, which is a preparatory to the base pose Salabhasana (Locust Pose). Beginners can first align to Salabhasana Palms Floor and then lift the arms off the floor to align to Locust Pose. This is a dynamic pose which moves counter to gravity and hence requires strength and energy to perform. This action allows the student to open the chest and enhance their breath capacity to stay in deeper backbends. It helps in releasing tension in the pelvic area.

STEPS

- Align on the mat in Advasana (Reverse Corpse Pose).
- While keeping your body relaxed, it prepares the mind for the flow.
- Now, align the hands behind, close to the body, with palms facing the floor. Stay here for a couple of breaths with the forehead rested on the mat.
- Inhale, raise both your legs from the waist. Keep them a bit apart.
- Align the knees at about 40 degrees from the floor or as per your comfort. With gradual practise, you can join the feet. The lower body is raised from the pelvic area and balanced on the upper abdomen.
- Simultaneously lift the torso and the chin from the floor, keeping the head engaged. Place the arms on the floor, a little away from the hips. The feet are above the mat. Exhale.
- Breathe into the pose. Stay as per capacity. The breath is short due to chest constriction, but breath awareness helps you stay in the pose.
- There is a tendency to hold your breath in this pose, which you should avoid. The support of the palms helps you stay in the pose.
- Release and relax to Makarasana (Crocodile Pose).

BENEFITS

- Helps to enhance the students' capacities for the base pose, Salabhasana.
- Stretches the quadriceps, hamstrings, psoas, ankles, and shin muscles.
- Strengthens the knees and the lower back and keeps the spine flexible.
- Helps in toning the muscles, glutes and the thighs.
- More beneficial in burning belly fat and relieving stress.
- Strengthens the joints, core, lumbar spine and enhances muscular flexibility.
- Aids in breathing, and toning diaphragm.
- Aids the body to remain stable and strong.
- Helps cure irregular period syndrome and painful period issues.
- Stimulates the Manipura (Solar Plexus), Swadhisthana (Sacral), and Muladhara (Root), Vishuddha (Throat) and Anahata (Heart) Chakras.
- Helps to treat diabetes, thyroid imbalance, and osteoporosis.

LIMITATIONS

- Students who have injuries at the ankles, knees, hips, pelvis, rib cage, or shoulders, or undergone recent surgery, avoid this practice.
- People with severe sciatica, peptic ulcers, heart patients, menstrual problems or prolapsed uterus and pregnant women, and senior citizens, avoid this pose.

By N Elumalai, PhD Scholar (Yoga Science) at Meenakshi Academy of Higher Education & Research, Chennai

WHATWHENWHYWHERE

Laugh Out Loud

Go for an hour of fun that will leave your stomach aching with laughter as a lineup of upcoming comedians take the stage.

WHEN: October 14, 7.30pm

WHERE: Kafe Karaoke, JP Nagar

DETAILS: allevents.in

Ceramic Decoration

Whether you're a seasoned artist or a complete beginner, unleash your imagination and paint personalised ceramic masterpieces under the guidance of an expert.

WHEN: October 14, 2pm

WHERE: Small World, Koramangala

DETAILS: insider.in

Convo & Culinary Delights

Transform your date into an enchanting evening with a candlelight dinner featuring exquisite culinary delights and expertly crafted beverages. Allow the warm, cosy ambiance to create unforgettable memories. **WHEN:** October 14, 8pm **WHERE:** Gold Rush Brews, Krishnarajapuram **DETAILS:** bookmyshow.com

Unleash Imagination

Engage your child's imagination and fine motor skills with sensory arts and crafts as they discover the joy of creating. Ideal for children between ages three and six.

WHEN: October 14, 4pm

WHERE: Brain Art, HSR Layout

DETAILS: allevents.in

Break A Leg

Take to the dance floor on Bollywood Night and groove to tunes played by DJ Max and DJ DropX.

WHEN: October 15, 7pm onwards

WHERE: Toca, Koramangala

DETAILS: highape.com

Upcycled Creations

Artist **Vishwanath Mallabadi**, transforms discarded e-waste into stunning pieces that challenge perceptions of beauty and value, integrating technology and human experience.

WHEN: October 14, 6pm onwards

WHERE: Alliance Française de Bangalore, Vasanthnagar

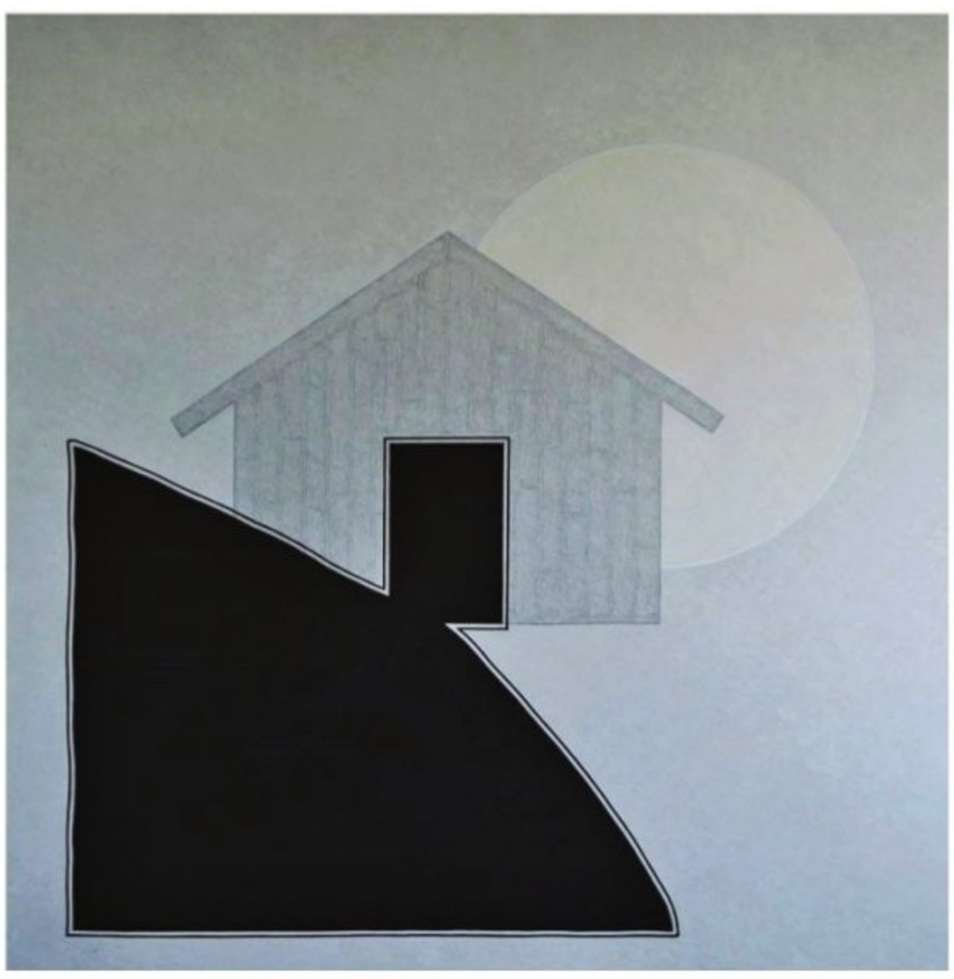
DETAILS: instagram.com/the.upcycle.store

Find Connections

Anonymously Yours' matchmaking system evaluates your interests, hobbies, and preferences to pair you with an ideal match without the need for swiping or endless scrolling through profiles.

WHEN: October 14, 7.30pm **WHERE:** ABC Park, Rajajinagar **DETAILS:** bookmyshow.com

ARTCORNER



MOON AT THIRD STEP

Yashwant Deshmukh is a contemporary artist who finds inspiration from objects of daily life, including flowers, pots, mirrors, and the intangible, such as the breeze and shadows. He mainly works with acrylic on canvases with fewer colours.

REVOLUTIONISING THE GAME

Intelligent, stylish, and ahead of its time, the MG Windsor EV isn't just another electric car. It's a statement

MG Motor India has opened bookings for the MG Windsor EV. Booking is available for ₹11,000.

LEKSHMI C PILLAI

MG Motor India's latest launch, the Windsor EV, caused a stir even before hitting the market. The buzz? A groundbreaking scheme that lets you buy an electric car without paying for the battery up front. Instead, you rent it for ₹3.5 per kilometre, with the vehicle starting at ₹9.99 lakh.

Dubbed the 'Battery as a Service' (BaaS) model, this innovative approach makes electric car ownership more accessible than ever. More on that later. First, let's see how the vehicle compares to the others in the market.

Exterior

The Windsor is unlike anything on Indian roads. It's not an SUV, an MPV, or a hatchback — it's something entirely new. As a 'born EV,' this car was designed from scratch as an electric vehicle, and it shows.

Up front, the bonnet sports a layered look, with a sleek LED strip running beneath the windshield. The bumper now houses the headlamps. Flanked by chrome inserts, it gives the car a futuristic edge.

The glossy black strip linking the headlamps adds a touch of elegance. The MG logo sits between the LED strip and the black trim. Unlike MG's other EVs, it doesn't double as the charging port cover. On this vehicle, the charging port is tucked away on the left fender.

The Windsor's 4.3-metre profile is sleek and creaseless. Even the 18-inch alloys and flush door handles are crafted to aid aerodynamics. Around the back, layered taillights and an LED strip complete the modern, minimalist look.

Interior

Inside, the Windsor greets you with plush, sofa-like seating and a massive 15.6-inch touchscreen that resembles a laptop. The front seats recline nearly flat, and the rear seats offer a luxurious 135-degree recline, giving the cabin the comfort of a business-class flight. It's perfect for watching a movie.

Space is abundant, with a large glass area and a panoramic sunroof enhancing the airy vibe. Legroom, knee room, and headroom are all generously provided, thanks to the 2.7-meter wheelbase.

The touchscreen doubles as the nerve centre for the vehicle, controlling everything from the sunshade and mirrors to the air conditioning and drive modes. There are also some controls on the steering wheel for ease of use while driving.

MG has also nailed the practical details, with wireless charging, multiple USB ports, bottle holders, and rear AC vents all cleverly integrated.

Performance

Powered by a 134 hp motor with 200 Nm of torque, the Windsor is front-wheel-drive and packs a 38 kWh battery. It offers four driving modes: Eco+, Eco, Normal, and Sport. There are also three levels of regenerative braking.

Even in the most frugal Eco+ mode, there's plenty of power for city cruising. On the highway, the Windsor shines, delivering a stable and responsive drive. Its suspension is finely tuned for comfort, absorbing bumps effortlessly, and there's minimal body roll, even at higher speeds.

MG claims a range of 331 km, but based on real-world driving, a more conservative estimate would be around 260-280 km — still plenty for most journeys.

Pricing

The Windsor's price starts at ₹9.99 lakh under the BaaS scheme, while the standard pricing begins at ₹13.50 lakh (ex-showroom).

The BaaS option essentially separates the cost of the battery from the car, allowing buyers to finance the vehicle through one of four approved non-banking financial companies (NBFCs). Both the car loan and battery rent must come from the same financier, and buyers can even opt to pay for the car upfront and only finance the battery.

The rental conditions vary across NBFCs, with some offering minimum monthly rates starting at ₹5,250 (based on 1,500 km). However, if you're the kind who wants to buy the battery outright, MG offers that too, with prices of ₹13.5 lakh, ₹14.5 lakh, and ₹15.5 lakh for the three variants.

It's worth noting that the BaaS scheme is exclusive to the first owner – if you sell the car, you'll need to settle the battery cost before handing over the keys.

Free charging

MG has also introduced an app that pulls together multiple charging operators. Windsor buyers will enjoy free public charging for a year through this app — an enticing bonus for those eager to dive into the world of EVs.

Final verdict

With a mix of futuristic design, luxurious comfort, and smart financing options, the MG Windsor EV stands out as an ideal choice for anyone looking to embrace the electric revolution.

Whether it's for long family trips, daily commutes, or spontaneous weekend adventures, the Windsor ticks all the boxes.

XPRESS HIGHWAY
FORTNIGHTLY SEGMENT ON WHAT'S REVVING UP IN THE AUTOMOTIVE SECTOR

The writer is a freelance auto expert, who hosts TV shows and anchors the YouTube channel 'CAR KADUVA'

Through rustic roads

Starting from Bengaluru, the first secretary of Trade and Investment, British Deputy High Commission backpacked across Tamil Nadu's temple towns to document their diversity

SONU M KOTHARI

ON a pleasant Friday afternoon in September, the temperature was 27 degrees Celsius in Bengaluru. Niall Ahern – a black helmet safely secured over his head, dressed in jackets, gloves, and boots, his forehead adorned with vibuthi and kungumam – ran a final check in his backpack. Stella, his motorbike, was geared up. He tied his orange saddlebag to the seat, started his Royal Enfield Himalayan range, and set out on the journey.

Over that weekend, the first secretary of Trade and Investment, British Deputy High Commission, drove through village roads and highways to Thiruvannamalai, Tharangambadi, Nagapattinam, Velankanni, and Tiruchy.

Choosing locales across India and riding to them has been his pastime for the last four years. Ahern enjoys exploring the brightness of the cities and the darkness of the villages. He uses his social media accounts as a platform to educate people across the globe on the potential India has. "The message that I am trying to show particularly to foreign people – from Europe and North America – is that India is changing and the image that people have of India might be quite dated," he says, adding, "People in the UK have a dated view of India, what they have seen through films. But everything could be different when you go around here."

Ahern made an "unplanned" trip to Tamil Nadu on September 6. With suggestions from his team in Chennai he mapped the route, with his first stop being the Arunachaleswarar Temple in Thiruvannamalai, early Saturday morning, Ahern found it "peaceful and relaxed."

Photos: Niall Ahern

One conversation at a time

Ahern is not new to the state, having been to Chennai, Kanniyakumari, Rameswaram, and Puducherry. "I enjoy going out on the bike because I think, particularly being a foreigner, and because my bike has diplomatic blue plates on it, people come up and talk to me. They always ask, 'Where are you from?' 'What are you doing in Tamil Nadu?' I am a big fan of Tamil Nadu, Tamil movies, and songs. So, my answers are always genuine and sincere," he admits.

On Day 2, he reached Tharangambadi. "The town was a Danish trading port to Andaman and Nicobar Islands," he wrote on X. Here, he visited New Jerusalem Church, and Nagore Dargah Shariff. "This is a place filled with history and peace. There was a mixture of Hindu and Muslim communities living side by side. India as a country is very diverse," he notes.

Navigating through both smooth and coarse roads, Ahern approached people with a "*vanakkam*" and furthered his conversations with "*Eppadi irukinga?* (How are you?)". A roadside vendor also had a chance to experience his heartiness. He narrates, "The aunty was selling some fruits. She didn't speak any English, but her daughter did. She thought that I was a Bollywood star. Then after spending time, they tried finding out my age and whether I was married. It was a charming moment because she was smiling throughout. The daughter said that she had not seen a a foreigner."

Long road ahead

Ahern drove as the road led him, and the trip extended to Velankanni. "There was a celebration at the church. It was a religious weekend. Lots of people had come and I had filter kaapi and conversations with a few of them," he says. On the list was the US Vice President, Kamala Harris' ancestral village, Thulasendrapuram. "I was wearing a baseball hat that had Kamala Harris' name. People who noticed that were proud of her as she is campaigning for the US presidential election," he says. Finally, he headed to Tiruchy. Soaking in the traditions of the temple town, Ahern wore a veshti to the Rock Fort temple atop a hill. He climbed more than 300 steps to look at the sunset. From here, he bid adieu and headed back to Bengaluru.

Following his travels and posts, Ahernhas noticed foreigners eager to come to India. "This journey will continue over the future as people realise that the country is changing and there is so much to see." he says.

NUGGETS

Youth fashion brand launches new store

Yousta, a fashion brand by Reliance Retail, opened a new store in Koramangala recently. At the launch, Akhilesh Prasad, president and CEO of fashion and lifestyle at Reliance Retail, unveiled the brand's latest collection. Known for delivering fresh fashion at unbeatable prices, Yousta's collections are accessible nationwide. The new store features self-checkout options and charging stations, enhancing the shopping experience.

Service to remotely monitor geriatric health launched

Dozee, an Indian medical equipment company, has launched Dozee Shravan, a clinical-grade AI-powered Remote Parent Monitoring (RPM) service that helps detect subtle deviations in heart rate, respiration, blood pressure, and sleep patterns of ageing parents and sends real-time alerts to their children, ensuring that timely medical intervention is possible. Built on AI-powered Ballistocardiography - a non-invasive method based on the measurement of the body motion generated by the ejection of the blood at each cardiac cycle. The system uses advanced AI algorithms to analyze biomarkers and provide timely alerts for any deviations. The technology is US FDA-cleared and adheres to international standards for data privacy.

Competition on healthcare innovations held

The DHN Innovation Challenge, a competition focused on leveraging technology to improve India's patient care and healthcare delivery, was held at IIIT-Bangalore recently. The event, presided over by Karnataka health minister, Dinesh Gundu Rao, saw participation from leading innovators and startups nationwide. Over 200 startups participated in this year's challenge, 14 were shortlisted for the pitch stage, and five finalists were selected to present their projects on demo day. The top prize went to MedySeva, a startup offering telemedicine services focused on providing affordable healthcare access to under-served rural communities. Their platform connects patients in remote areas with qualified medical professionals, improving access to essential health services in regions lacking adequate medical infrastructure.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, NASEER AHMED SABJAN PYARU, S/o. S. Pyaru Sab, resident at #3, 16th Cross, Lakkasandra. Bangalore South, PO: Adugodi, DIST: Bangalore. Karnataka-560030, have changed my name to **NASEER AHMED** Vide Affidavit dated 10.10.2024 sworn before Advocate & Notary C.N. Balasubramanyam, Bangalore

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Mallappa, son of Khandappa, aged 36 years, residing at 1/91, HalHalli Post Toglur, Hulsoor Taluka, Bidar District 585327, have changed my name to **MALLAPPA GUNJATE** Vide Affidavit dated 27.09.2024 sworn before Advocate & Notary Uday Kumar .K, Bangalore

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **VIVEK KUMAR SISODIYA,** Aged about 45 Years, residing at E 1104, Shriram Suhaana Banyan Tower, Doddaballapur Road, Yelahanka, Bengaluru 560064, hereby declare that my names **VIVEK KUMAR SISODIYA and VIVEK SISODIYA** belongs to me only, and belongs to one and the same person. Affidavit dated 09.10.2024 sworn before advocate and notary Deepa .M, Bangalore

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **TARUN SAI,** S/O. Sivakumar. S, Residing at Flat No. 112, Mahaveer Coral Apartment, 15th Main, 17th Cross, JP Nagar 5th Phase, Bangalore - 560078, have changed my name from **TARUN SAI SIVAKUMAR to TARUN SAI,** I have decided to continue my name in future as **TARUN SAI** vide affidavit dated 11-10-2024 sworn to before notary Mohamed Hussian .K, Bangalore

THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS **CLASSIFIEDS**

PUBLIC NOTICE

CHANGE OF NAME

CHANGE OF NAME

I, ATHENA EVANGELIN GEORGE, W/o, Muralidharan Selvaraj, residing at No. 13, 3rd Floor, 3rd Cross, Marappa Thota, J. C. Nagar, Bengaluru – 560006, Karnataka, India, have changed my minor son's name from **(OLD NAME) TRISTAN PAUL A M to (NEW NAME) TRISTAN PAUL M,** vide affidavit dated 09.10.2024 sworn before Notary Leela, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, S Shwethaa D/o Suresh N, Aged about 38 years, Residing at Swarna Mahal, Old Post Office Road, Nelamangala Town, Nelamangala Taluk, Bangalore Rural District-562123. Hereby Declared that my Father's name is wrongly mentioned in some records as **"Suresh Nagaraju Badraiah"** and the correct name is **"Suresh N",** vide affidavit dated **09.10.2024,** sworn before advocate and notary **M Ravikumar,** Nelamangala, Bangalore Rural.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **RANAK SUHAS SEETHA RAM PRASAD,** S/o Seetha Ram Prasad .K, R/at No. 16, Sanghavi Opera, Flat No. 2202, 1st Floor, BSK III Stage, Bangalore-560 026 do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **TARUN SEETHA RAM PRASAD** to **RANAK SUHAS SEETHA RAM PRASAD,** henceforth I shall be known and called as **RANAK SUHAS SEETHA RAM PRASAD** for all purposes, vide affidavit dated 10-10-2024, sworn before Advocate and Notary **S.N. MADHU** at Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **SSHRUTHI JADAV,** D/o Late Bhagavanth Rao, age 37 years, R/at No 336/40, Parshwantha Nilaya, Parshwantha Nagar Layout, Kannayakanagrahara, Bengaluru-560 083 do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **SHRUTHI B JADAV** to **SSHRUTHI JADAV,** henceforth I shall be known and called as **SSHRUTHI JADAV** for all purposes, vide affidavit dated 10th October 2024, sworn before Advocate and Notary **MAHESHA .J.J** at Bangalore.

DECLARATION

I, **TEJAS J,** S/o Jagadeesh Y, R/at 24th Main, 1st Cross, T. Thippareddy Road, Opp. Post Office, Agara, HSR Layout, Bangalore - 560102. I declare that both the my father names **JAGADISH Y REDDY** and **JAGADEESH Y** my mother name **RADHA K** and **RADHAMMA** are one and the same person only. Vide affidavit dated 10-10-2024 sworn before notary B.M. Chandrashekar, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **GAVEESH H R,** aged about 33 years, S/o. Ranganatha H N, No. 20, 2nd Floor, 2nd House, 9th 'A" Cross, R D Layout, B G Road, Bengaluru-560030, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **GAVISHA H R** to **GAVEESH H R,** vide affidavit dated 10.10.2024, sworn to before K.V. Mani, Advocate & Notary, Govt. of India, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Satabdi Choudhury, D/o.Lingaraj Choudhury, aged about 36 years, residing at Flat No.102, 2nd Floor, Jala Topaz Apartment, Central Street, 9th Cross, Near BWSSB, Kumara Park West Extension, Bangalore 560020, have changed my son's name from **Divyan Katariya** to **Divyan Kumar,** vide affidavit dated 10/10/2024 sworn before Ravikumar. V advocate and notary Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **PRADIP BIPINCHANDRA MISTRY,** S/o Bipinchandra Hiralal Mistry (Bipinbhai Hiralal Mistry), age 50 years, R/at Flat No. D-304, Suraj Ganga Socrates, Kanakapura Main Road, Vajarahalli, Bengaluru-560 062 do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **PRADEEPKUMAR BIPINBHAI MISTRY** to **PRADIP BIPINCHANDRA MISTRY,** henceforth I shall be known and called as **PRADIP BIPINCHANDRA MISTRY** for all purposes, vide affidavit dated 10th October 2024, sworn before Advocate and Notary **MAHESHA .J.J** at Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **APURVA VARMA,** S/o Dilip Hiralal Varma, Flat No. I 806, Brigade Gateway, 26/1, Dr. Rajkumar Road, Malleshwaram West, Bengaluru North, Bengaluru-560 055 do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **APURVA DILIP VARMA** to **APURVA VARMA,** henceforth I shall be known and called as **APURVA VARMA** for all purposes, vide affidavit dated 10th October 2024, sworn before Advocate and Notary **MAHESHA J.J.** at Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **MALIKRJUN PATIL,** S/o Shankar Gowda M Patil, age 39 years, R/at No. 336/40, Parshwantha Nilaya, Parshwantha Nagar Layout, Kannayakanagrahara, Bengaluru-560 083 do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **MALLIKARJUN S PATIL** to **MALIKRJUN PATIL,** henceforth I shall be known and called as **MALIKRJUN PATIL** for all purposes, vide affidavit dated 10th October 2024, sworn before Advocate and Notary **MAHESHA .J.J** at Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **JAGDISH KALYANDURG MATH,** S/o Sri Basayya Kalyandurgmath, age 63 years, R/at Flat No. 303, Seawoods Estates, Palmbeach Road, Near Delhi Public School, Sector-54, Nerul West, Navi Mumbai, Thane, Maharashtra-400706, presently at Bangalore do hereby declare that both the names i.e. **JAGDISH KALYANDURG MATH** and **JAGADEESH KALYANDURG MATH** are one and the same and refers to me only, vide affidavit dated 10th October 2024, sworn before Advocate and Notary **PUTTARAMAIAH** at Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **NAGARAJ .B,** Aged about 50 years (D.O.B. : 12.02.1974), Son of Balakrishna Rao .B, resident of No. 315, B Block, Ramapriya Brindavan Gardenia, 4th Cross, 4th Main, Hanuma Hills Layout, Arehalli, Uttarahalli, Bengaluru - 560 061, Karnataka, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **NAGARAJA BALAKRISHNA RAO** to **NAGARAJ .B** vide affidavit dated 10.10.2024 sworn to before Prakasha .C, Advocate & Notary, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, BALAJI ARUNACHALAM, S/o ARUNACHALAM P, residing at F624, Amber Block, Brigade Lakefront, Seetharampalya, Hoodi, Whitefield, Mahadevapura Post, Bengaluru, Karnataka, 560048, India, changed the name of my minor son aged 11 years **(DOB: 26/10/2012),** from **VIYAN** to **VIYAN NELVILL** vide affidavit dated **03.09.2024,** sworn before notary J Anand kumar at Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **SRINIVAS PANCHAJANYA SHARAT KUMAR, S/o. Sharat Kumar Desai, Resident of Flat No. 172, Tower-B6, DLF Westend Heights Apartments, Akshayanagar, Off Bannerghatta Road, Bengaluru -560076,** have changed my name to **SRINIVAS PANCHAJANYA** vide affidavit dated: 10.10.2024 before notary ARAVIND PATIL .G.G, Bengaluru.

SMART ADS

URGENT SALE
FARM LAND FOR SALE
PUDUCHERRY
AUROVILLE
12 FEET COMPOUND
24000 Sq.ft.
Farm Land for Sale
200 feet Drinking water borewell also available
Contact:
9688334301

For SMART ADS & INDIAN EXPRESS CLASSIFIEDS
Contact : Mr Ravi Kumar
9886550650
080-22866893

A ONE-MAN SHOW BY DHRUVA SARJA WITH AN IDENTITY CRISIS OF ITS OWN

A SHARADHAA

MARTIN
Director: AP Arjun
Cast: Dhruva Sarja, Vaibhavi Shandilya, Nikitin Dheer, Anveshi Jain

RATING 2.5/5

AFTER three years of production marked by setbacks and delays, the highly anticipated action drama *Martin* has finally hit the silver screen. Marketed as a global spectacle to be released in over 11 languages, the film aspires to deliver a grand experience, but will it also invite viewers to explore its complex story?

The first point of interest in *Martin* is the story by Arjun Sarja, which explores the theme of duality through the clash of hero and villain. The film thrusts us into this intriguing dichotomy with its central characters, Arjun and *Martin* (played by Dhruva Sarja). Both share strikingly similar features yet embody opposing forces: one a beacon of positivity, the other shrouded in negativity, with body language resembling animal behaviour. This concept echoes the familiar coin metaphor, where one side represents the head and the other the tail. However, unlike the intrinsic connection of a coin, these two figures are mere reflections—linked by appearance and devoid of relationship.

The film opens in Pakistan with a convoluted narrative steeped in action and drama. We meet a powerful gangster, touted to be "as formidable as ten elephants," who escapes from a high-security prison after a violent encounter with two gigantic wrestlers. His mission? To seek out the individual responsible for his near-fatal shooting and uncover details about the gun and bullet that struck his heart. However, a chemical injection during his capture has left him grappling with memory loss, as noted by the doctor (Malvika Avinash), complicating his quest. Ultimately, he manages to land in Mumbai—don't ask how. At one point, he is revealed as *Martin*, searching for Arjun, a customs officer, only to assist Mushtak (Nikitin Dheer), the kingpin of a media operation, who is trying to safeguard a truckload of drugs. Their eventual confrontation raises many questions, leaving the audience to unravel this mystery.

In *Martin*, the story revolves around two characters, *Martin* and Arjun, each representing different aspects of identity and destiny. Arjun is an orphan from Mangalore entangled in crime, while *Martin*'s background remains unexplored. The film raises questions about identity and connection but ultimately lacks depth, resulting in confusion. Certain episodes and scenes go unanswered, prioritising action over character development. The dialogue feels inauthentic, especially when Kannada phrases are spoken by characters in Pakistan.

The film showcases impressive action sequences and chases but suffers from subpar CGI and VFX, undermining its ambition. As it explores the intertwined identities of *Martin* and Arjun, it devolves into a chaotic blend of action tropes, with a poorly integrated romantic subplot that lacks emotional weight and distances itself from humour.

Amidst all this, we feel a disconnect between Arjun Sarja's story and AP Arjun's direction and what was expected from Dhruva Sarja, who is the face of *Martin*. At one point, it even feels like a disjointed collection of action scenes rather than a cohesive narrative.

While Manisharma's songs are passable, Ravi Basrur's background score disappoints, failing to elevate crucial moments. The dialogue, intended to add weight, instead falls flat, lacking the depth needed to connect.

Dhruva Sarja showcases multiple shades of his character, partially succeeding in his portrayal. Yet, some of his delivery feels repetitive from previous works, especially his debut *Addhuri*. His portrayal of the antagonist is loud and shallow, with the repeated question, "Who am I?" He excels in action, delivering thrilling fight sequences but is given limited opportunities to showcase his dance skills. The supporting cast, including Vaibhavi Shandilya and Anveshi Jain, contributes little as their arcs feel underdeveloped. Notable actors like Chikkanna and Achyuth Kumar have mechanical characters without emotional depth, while others like Sukruta Wagle and Bhoomi Shetty appear in blink-and-you-miss-it roles. The film also features Nathan Jones and Aarash Shah, along with a special appearance by Georgia Andriani.

A particular line, "*Martin* is not a joke," intended to convey seriousness, instead reveals a sense of disappointment in the film. Another line, "Don't teach a father how to... make babies," feels out of context, hinting that the filmmakers may not trust their audience's intelligence.

In a world where appearances often deceive, *Martin* challenges us to explore the complexities of identity and the shadows of our past. The film introduces a signature style from its antagonist, who has a peculiar habit of shooting to the left eye—a metaphorical gesture inviting the audience to reflect on the risks of watching.

While *Martin* aspires to be a gritty crime drama, it falters due to weak character development, clunky dialogue, and a chaotic plot. The film proves that a tough exterior cannot mask a hollow core.

Mahesh Gowda unveils poster for *Bilichukki* Hallihakki, a rom-com addressing vitiligo

A still from the film

This film marks a significant milestone in Indian cinema, as it features a character with vitiligo portrayed by an actor who has the condition

CE FEATURES

DIRECTOR and producer Mahesh Gowda, who also plays the lead has officially wrapped up filming for *Bilichukki* Hallihakki, entering the final stages of post-production with palpable excitement. The anticipation surrounding this unique film is heightened by its innovative approach to the often-overlooked topic of vitiligo—a skin condition that causes loss of pigmentation. In a festive nod to the spirit of Dasara, the team also released a special poster, captivating the attention of audiences. This film marks a significant milestone in Indian cinema, as it features a character with vitiligo portrayed by an actor who has the condition. "For the first time, we're bringing this narrative to life in a way that resonates with authenticity," Mahesh explained, according to a press release. The storyline delves into the societal, familial, and personal challenges faced by those with vitiligo, all while delivering an engaging and entertaining rom-com experience.

Having vitiligo himself, Mahesh brings a deeply personal perspective to his role as Shiva. "*Bilichukki* Hallihakki offers a fresh lens on the relationships within our lives, balancing sensitivity with humour," he shared. "This film combines heartfelt storytelling with a light-hearted tone, aiming to illuminate the realities of living with vitiligo while ensuring the story remains entertaining."

Produced under the banner of Honudi Productions, the film has a musical score by Rio Antony and cinematography by Kiran CHM.

Police shouldn't look too glamorous—that's my concern: Upendra

CE FEATURES

REAL Star Upendra showed his support at the trailer launch of his wife Priyanka Upendra's upcoming film, *Ugravatara*, directed by Gurumurthy. The event was lively as Upendra shared his appreciation after watching clips from the film, noting the hard work of the director. With a smile, he encouraged the audience to look forward to the film, adding, "Police shouldn't look too glamorous—that's my concern. If they appear glamorous, how will they catch the rogues?" His light-hearted comments brought laughter from the crowd.

"Your support will help many new artists succeed," he said. "Several families will shine bright. We all make small mistakes, but we can forgive each other as fans of Kannada cinema. I ask everyone not to judge the film without watching it first."

Priyanka Upendra also shared her feelings, admitting she had doubts about taking on her role. She talked about important issues like women's safety in India, stressing the need for self-defence and respect for the police. "We must respect the police as they help protect our society," she said.

Priyanka expressed gratitude for the support from Guru Murthy since she agreed to the role. She highlighted the need to show respect for women, comparing it to how we treat our mothers, sisters, and daughters. "Real-life stories have been thoughtfully included in this film," she noted, sharing her hard work in training for five action sequences. With the dubbing in four languages finished, she encouraged everyone to support the film.

Director Gurumurthy added, "Please come to the theatres!"

Produced by SG Sateesh under SGS Creations, *Ugravatara*'s ensemble cast includes senior actor Suman, Pavitra Lokesh, Cockroach Sudhi, Ajay, Pavan Acharya, Praanvi Gowda, Vardhan Thirthahalli, Roboganesh, Pooja Kottur, and Laksha Shetty in pivotal roles.

The actor attended the trailer launch of his wife Priyanka Upendra's upcoming film, *Ugravatara*, directed by Gurumurthy

Upendra and Priyanka Upendra

A still from the film

It's been 25 years since I've watched a film: Dy CM DK Shivakumar

CE FEATURES

RECENTLY, at the event of the upcoming film *Thamate*, Karnataka's Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar unveiled the film's showreel featuring politician and producer-turned-actor, Madan Patel. During the occasion, DKS made a surprising confession: he hadn't watched a single film in 25 years. "Despite running theatres, somehow, I haven't found the time to watch a film," he admitted.

Shivakumar, who once operated touring talkies, expressed genuine enthusiasm about Thamate, stating that he intends to watch the entire movie when his schedule allows. After enjoying a captivating 30-minute preview, he praised the film, saying, "It's very good. I will definitely watch the full film soon."

Thamate centres around the life of a tamate musician from a rural village—an aspect that connected deeply with Shivakumar. He extended his heartfelt wishes for the film's success, highlighting its cultural significance.

Madan Patel, who serves as both actor and producer, shared the journey of Thamate, revealing that it originated from a novel he wrote a few years ago. "Now my son, Mayur Patel, has brought it to life on screen," he explained. He further went on to express his gratitude to DK Shivakumar for attending the event despite his busy schedule.

Reflecting on the adaptation process, Mayur Patel spoke about his dream of transforming his father's literary work into a film. He recounted the pivotal moment when he encouraged Madan to take on the lead role, marking his debut as a prominent actor.

Thamate has already made the rounds at various film festivals, and the makers are planning to release the film soon.

Madan Patel, DK Shivakumar and Mayur Patel

Real-life couple to light up the silver screen with *Sangeetha Santhosha*

CE FEATURES

SANGEETHA Santhosha, directed by Siddu S, promises to deliver a unique cinematic experience, featuring real-life couple Arnav Vinyaas and Rani Warad, who bring their authentic chemistry from their lives as an on-screen couple. Following the film's completion of production, the trailer was recently unveiled by Chandrasekhara Shivaradhya Swamiji.

Cleared with a 'U' certificate, *Sangeetha Santhosha* is described by Siddu as a labour of love conceived during the lockdown. "This dream project, written during those challenging times, has come to life thanks to the support of the entire team," he noted while speaking at the trailer launch event. "It combines elements of love, comedy, and suspense, offering a complete package for the audience."

This film marks Siddu's third venture in the industry, following *Hombanna* and *Premam*. Lead actor Arnav Vinyaas expressed his enthusiasm, saying, "In this film, I play a businessman, and it's special to share the screen with my wife, Rani Warad." Rani echoed his sentiments, stating, "It's an opportunity to portray a couple that mirrors our real-life relationship."

The trailer launch was attended by personalities like Lahari Velu. During the unveiling, Siddu emphasised the importance of a solid foundation for a successful film: "A film like *Sangeetha Santhosha* needs four pillars: preparation, acting, media support to reach the audience, and, most importantly, the viewers' love. If any of these pillars falter, the film cannot stand."

Actor Nakshatra shared insights into her role, which introduces conflict between the lead couple. Lokesh Surya, known from *Comedy Khiladigalu*, also spoke about his role and mentioned the enjoyable atmosphere on set.

A still from the film